

Dresser, Paul  
**DRESSER HOME**  
T. H. Stark 2/14/67.  
**VOTED SHRINE**

The Paul Dresser home, First and Farrington streets, now has been declared a state memorial and a state shrine by vote of the Indiana General Assembly and the bill awaits signing by Gov. Roger Branigin, the Vigo County Historical Society was informed Monday night.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, secretary of the society and curator of the Dresser Home and of the Historical Museum, announced she was informed by State Sen. Herman J. Fanning, Jr., that the bill had just passed the Senate, 37 to 0. It previously had passed the house, where it was introduced by Rev. Jack I. Neaderhiser. Both the legislators are from Terre Haute.

"This action honors those who worked to preserve the Dresser home and set it up in its present location," Mrs. Clark said. "We are all grateful for the action by the legislature."

#### PAUL DRESSER'S BIRTHPLACE

BY

A.R. MARKLE

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PAUL DRESSER'S BIRTHPLACE

BY

A.R. MARKLE

Any research into the birthplace of Paul Dresser necessitates some study of his parentage and genuine source material is very scarce.

The authorities on the time and place of his birth, his life and death, vary widely and it is necessary to compare the statements of these authorities, not only with each other but with variations in each individual writer to gain some idea of the credibility as well as the opportunity each had to observe events, to note their occurrence and to judge the evidence they obtained, and the possibility of bias or prejudice.

Of those who actually were present at Paul's birth, none are now alive, but few who were of an age to observe are still living and entitled to credit and those still alive whose evidence would be of value, know nothing of his actual birth or early life.

Those who obtained fame in their later years and bear testifying regarding the event include his brother Theodore.

Paul himself, Dorothy Dudley and among the lesser lights some friends of Paul and Theodore who obviously obtained their information from one or the other of the brothers.

Paul himself (hardly a competent witness) says that he was born in a brick house on Second street south of Poplar, known as the Meyer property, <sup>had</sup> which his father enlarged by adding a second story, and fixes the date as 1857.

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This property, known as the North half of Lot No.155 in the Original Town, was bought by his father Jan. 18, 1859 for \$300.00 from Abraham Glick. It was sold by them Oct. 7, 1863 to Ferdinand Meyer for \$875.00.

This shows by the Deed Records of Vigo County, the ownership, and presumably the residence of the family there for nearly five years and additional evidence of the residence there is given in the Terre Haute Directory of 1863 where Paul Dresser (the father) is listed as foreman of the Ellis Woolen factory, residence 56 South Second.

House numbers in the years previous to 1877 were listed consecutively. In that year the "Philadelphia System" of one hundred to the block was adopted in preparation for the first free mail delivery in Terre Haute in 1879.

In the 1864 Directory there is: Paul Dresser, wool carder, residence South Second Street.

That Paul was mistaken in the date of his birth is shown by the baptismal record of St. Joseph's Catholic Church where on May 24, 1858 he was baptized by Father Koenig, who records his birth as April 22, 1858.

While the priest obtained the date from others, there is no room for doubt that his own observation would be sufficient as to an infant being one or thirteen months old.

Then too, the sponsors were Dr. James Bell and Mrs. Margaret Breen and if any physician was present at the birth the chances favor Dr. Bell as being the one.

This we may safely set aside the evidence presented by Paul

himself, both as to time and place.

Next in order comes his younger brother, Theodore Dreiser, born August 27, 1871, the date confirmed by the Baptismal Record of St. Benedict's Catholic Church, who could only have been told years afterward, anything he might know of his brother's date and place of birth. So many of his statements are contrary to documentary evidence that little weight can be attached to his testimony.

He gives the date of birth as April 23, 1857, advises the purchase of the one story brick house at 115 Walnut Street as the birthplace and a memorial to his brother Paul and in "A Hoosier Holiday" pictures the house at Twelfth and Walnut as his own birthplace while stating earlier in the same book, that he was born at Ninth and Chestnut.

This leaves us to another source of information, the Terre Haute Directory for 1858, which lists Paul Dresser (the father) as a Spinner with G.F. Ellis (woolen manufacturer) house First, between Walnut and Poplar.

This Directory was completed and published by Henry McEvoy in the year 1858 and as it is important to fix the date when the canvasser found the family on First street, we must consider the following facts.

Feb. 9, 1858 The Terre Haute Daily Journal announces that "Mr. McEvoy is now in the city getting up a Directory."

His advertisement appears for the first time and on March 17, for the last time.

On Feb. 20, "Mr. McEvoy has persuaded the Council to have signs giving the street names erected."

March 23, "Mr. McEvoy is getting up a map of Terre Haute designed to go with his Directory."

May 26, comes the announcement that the Directory published by Mr. McEvoy will be ready for delivery today.

Here is a period covering 106 days for the announcement of his presence in the city to the delivery of the Directory. The longer period, between his arrival and the birth of the boy is 72 days and the boy was thirty four days old when the delivery was made.

A publisher of a directory must depend on his advertisers for his revenue and it is safe to say that a strong probability exists that the discontinuance of the advertisement in the Journal coincides closely with the completion of the canvas, for advertisements and the beginning of the canvas of the residence districts.

To complete the circumstantial evidence, it is fair to assume that a woman would not move even so humble a home as hers, within a month or so of the birth of her child.

To sum up the evidence pro and con, regarding the birthplace of Paul Dresser, there is no positive evidence that he was born at 115 Walnut street and such proofs of his having lived there in later years rest on rumors of "They say."

Even as late as 1923 newspaper comment on the early life of the composer refers to the Walnut street house as his "boyhood home" and the place where he spent his "sleeping hours." His waking hours spent in every part of Terre Haute.

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Newspaper clipping in Scrap book No.23 in the Fairbanks Library quotes Mique O'Brien as saying Paul was born" in a little frame cottage on Walnut street."

Indianapolis Star, May or March 6, 1933 by Agnes McCullough Hanna. Says Paul was born "April 25, 1857 at 115 Walnut Street."

Terre Haute Tribune Wed. Jan. 31, 1906. "Paul Dresser----- died Tuesday at the home of his sister in New York."-----

"Dresser was born in Terre Haute 47 years ago."-----

"The exact place of his birth is not known. Some claim that the song writer was born in a house which stood at the corner of First and Ohio streets while others say that it was a two story brick building between Poplar and Swan on South Second. When a lad he lived in the latter house."

Forgotten Frontiers by Dorothy Dudy - Harrison Smith and Robert Haas Publishers New York, 1932. P.26. "The favorite son, Paul, the song writer, the prince of the family life, got into jail "innocently" Dreiser thinks, for having forged his father's name, and there for a time was exiled by the father." P.232. "Paul-----died of a broken spirit-----

he was fifty five" (1906-55 ----1851) Twelve men by Theodore Dreiser--Boni and Liveright Publishers New York 1919. My Brother Paul - Page 77 - "myself a boy of ten and he a man of twenty five (my oldest brother)". Paul born 1858- Theo. 1871 equal 13 yrs.)

Page 108 - "Then one evening in late November, before I had time to call upon him (I lived about a mile away) a hurry call came from E-----He had died suddenly at five in the after-

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noon, a blood vessel had burst in his head."

(Died Jan. 30, 1906 - See T.H. Tribune Jan. 31, 1906)

Terre Haute Tribune April 23, 1927.

By Larry Deming--"Paul learned that his father had failed in business." ----- "Jan. 20, 1906 in his 50th year, he passed away."

The Daily Union

Feb. 9, 1858 "Mr. McEvoy is now in the city getting up a directory. We have seen specimens of his plan and like them better than any heretofore examined. We will speak more fully of this matter at another time."

Feb. 20, "Mr. McEvoy has persuaded the Council to have signs giving the street names erected," March 17. McEvoy's advertisement appears for the last time.

March 23, Mr. McEvoy is getting up a map of Terre Haute designed to go with his directory.

May 26, "The Directory published by Mr. McEvoy will be ready for delivery today. \$1.00 a copy.

(Paul Dresser Born April 22, 1858)

Mar. 23 to Apr. 22 -- 30 days

Apr. 22 to May 26 -- 34 days

Dresser in Deed Records of Vigo County

22/78 N. 1/2 of lot 155 Jos. C. Baker & wf Catharine to Abraham Glick for \$300.00 Dec. 3, 1858.

22/140 Abraham Glick to Paul Drieser, N 1/2 of lot 155 for \$300.00 Jan. 18, 1859.

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26/432 Paul Drieser and wf Sarah to Ferdinand Meyer N 1/2  
of lot 155 for \$875.00. Oct. 7, 1863.

43-86 Michael Michael and wf Emily to Paul Dreiser for  
\$2100.00 Lot 82 in Ros's Sub. of 44 acres, Sept. 11, 1871.

52/401 Paul Dreiser and wf Sarah to Eve Ann Stakeman for \$1400.00.  
Lot 82 in Rose Sub. of 44 acres, subject to Mortgage for \$1000.00,  
May 21, 1878.

3/7 Lot No. 205 Original Town Nov. 26, 1828 T.H. Co. sold to  
2/200 Thos. Houghton lot 205. Aug. 3, 1825 Thomas G. Brook sold  
to Thomas Houghton for \$100.00 Lot 205.

16/223 Feb. 17, 1852 Thomas Houghton sold to John Deming for  
\$600.00, 26 ft. 3 in. off south side, and 23 ft. 9 in.  
off north side No. 206.

17/491 September 6, 1853 David Frost and wife Eliza sold to  
Thomas Houghton for \$600.00. Same part of 205 above.

22-175 Feb. 18, 1859 Thomas Houghton sold to John P. Gibson for  
\$1000.00 lot 205 except 26 ft. 3 in off south side.

TERRE HAUTE CITY DIRECTORIES

1858 Dresser, Paul, Spinner G.F. Ellis, h. 1st bt Walnut and  
Page 67 Poplar.

1863 Dresser, Paul, foreman Ellis woolen factory res. 56 s. 2nd.  
Page 39

1864 Dresser, Paul, wool carder, res. S. Second.  
Page 75 Roche Stephen, laborer res. Walnut, bt. first and Second.

1868 No Dresser

1871-72 No Dresser

1872-73 Dreiser, Paul lab. h.s.w. cor. Walnut and 12th.  
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1874 Dresser, Paul, laborer, res. S.W. Cor. Walnut and 12th  
Page 67 Dresser, Paul, wool sorter, res. S.W. cor. 12th and Walnut  
nut Dresier, Paul, Baker, brds. w s 5th S. Tippecanoe.

1876 Dreiser, Paul, Spinner, res. S.W. Cor. 12th and Walnut  
Page 97 Dreiser, Roman, printer journal "(copy) "  
Dresler, Paul, sorter Jeffers, Sheesley & Co. (Copy) "

1877 Dresser, Paul, lab. res 203 S. 12th  
Page 113

1878-9 Dreiser, Paul, res. 203 S.12th.  
" Paul, res. 209 S. 12th.

1879-80 Dreiser, Paul musician, bds. National House  
P.61 Dreiser, Paul, res. 533 N. 7th

1880-81 Dreiser, Corwin, printer, 205 N. 13th  
p.74 Dreiser, Cecilia 205 N. 13th  
Dreiser, Emma 205 N. 13th  
Dreiser, Mary 205 N. 13th

Page 75 Dreiser, Paul, lightning rod agent 205 N. 13th  
Dreiser, Paul, weaver, 205 N. 13th  
Dreiser, Therisa 205 N. 13th

1881 Dreiser, Paul, lab. Wabash Woolen Mills  
p.115 Bds. 128 S. 1st.

1882 Dreiser, Paul, Scourer, G.F. Ellis  
P.150 Bds. 128 S. 1st.

1883 Dreiser, Paul, lab. G.F. Ellis  
Bds. 118 S. 1st.

1884 Dreiser, Paul, assorter, G.F. Ellis  
Bds. 118 S. 1st.

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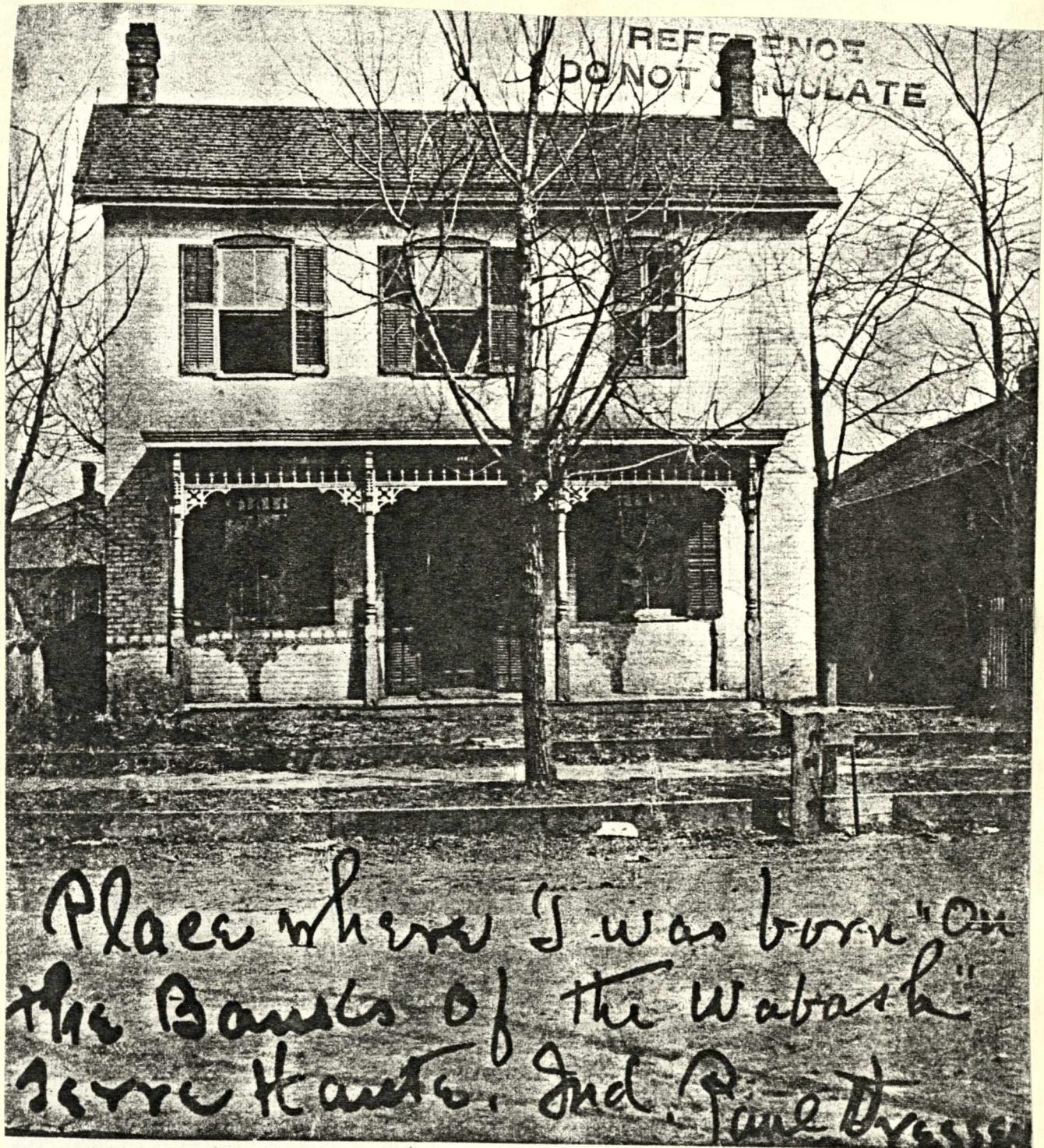
1885      No Dreiser  
1887      No Dreiser  
1888      Dreiser, Paul, wool sorter  
P.175      Bds. Anderson House

(No later directories show Dressers)

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his picture of the Dresser home was given to his brother, Ed, by the composer of *On The Banks Of The Wabash*.

## A LINK IN HOOSIER HERITAGE

*The birthplace at Terre Haute of Paul Dresser, who wrote our state song, will soon be open to the public as a memorial*

**By FRANCES E. HUGHES**

**Y**OU CAN soon add a new shrine to the list of interesting places you'll want to visit on week-end tours around Indiana.

It's the house in Terre Haute in which Paul Dresser, who wrote *On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away*—our state song—was born in 1857.

When you visit it, you'll find a modest little, old-fashioned two-story brick house. It's built in the architectural style of a century ago; shuttered windows, a porch with wooden gingerbread trimming, a steep roof. The house will have furnishings of the period in which Dresser was born, and there will be authentic Dresser articles on view.

The house, at 318 South Second Street, is privately owned and is a rental property.

Threatened with demolition as a part of the slum clearance project of the Southwest Project Area of Terre Haute's Urban Renewal Program, the house became a matter of interest to the Vigo County Historical Society.

WITH a substantial initial contribution, a Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee was formed by the historical society. The committee negotiated with city officials for a 50-year lease for a spot of ground in Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive along the Wabash River. It is a lot on the northwest corner of First and Farrington Streets, approximately seven blocks from where the house now stands.

The City Redevelopment Commission agreed to sell the Dresser homeplace to the society for the token sum of \$1 after having acquired the property from the present owner. The society is raising \$5,000 through donations to cover cost of moving the house, building a new foundation and other expenses.

In letters sent out by the committee to members of the historical society and their friends, it was pointed out that: "History is nothing more than the record of facts which resulted in our great American heritage. The mor-

we can make people conscious of their heritage, the less chance there will be of insidious infiltration of radical ideologies taking any effect which will undermine the freedoms we enjoy as a part of that heritage."

Restoration of the house and furniture cost will come later. It is the hope of the committee that it may be furnished with furniture of Dresser's day in modest style because the family was a poor, hard-working one.

Plans are to move the house this autumn before bad weather sets in. Angle irons will be put on the corners; the whole house bound with steel cables, the pressure holding the bricks together. The house will then be rolled onto big, flat, low trucks with rubber tires and pulled to the new location.

Particularly interested in the memorial is one of the few remaining members of the Dreiser family (as an actor Paul changed the spelling of his name from Dreiser to Dresser). Dr. Vera Dreiser, Ph.D., psychologist of the Department of Mental Hygiene of New York state.

OUR STATE song, *On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away* was written in 1897 by Dresser with the lyrics supposedly written by his equally famous brother, Theodore Dreiser, author, who was then a 25-year-old reporter in New York City. Looking for a song idea to repeat his good fortune as composer of *Just Tell Them That You Saw Me*, Paul asked his brother for a suggestion. The journalist recommended a song about a state or river, suggesting the Wabash River and saying, "It's as good as any other river, and you were raised with it."

Dresser died on Jan. 24, 1906, in New York City, *shabby*, poverty-stricken, haunted by a fear that he was losing his touch. When he had been in funds he was one of the gayest of bright spirits along Tin Pan Alley, but he died broke at only 49 years of age.

However, he had written 106 songs, several of which were famous then or became so later. Many were "minstrel" numbers.

The Indiana ballad was adopted as the state song on March 14, 1913, by the Indiana General Assembly. It has been interpreted four times under its own title as a motion picture—twice in silent and twice in talking films—and has been incorporated as an effective song in many other productions. Year in and year out over the years, thousands of copies of the song have been sold both as sheet music and records.

The song was inscribed to Miss Mary E. South of Terre Haute, who still resides there and has many pleasant memories of her composer friend.

Another popular Dresser tune is *My Gal Sal*, which was dedicated to Sally Fitzgerald (later Mrs. James Pierce), who was his girl friend and on whose piano the number was composed. The Dreiser family could not afford a piano so Paul would go to the Fitzgerald home and there composed some of his early numbers. The Fitzgerald piano was recently purchased by the Vigo County Historical Society for its Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley in Terre Haute.

DRESSER WAS born in the house in Terre Haute on April 23, 1857, to Paul and Sarah Marie Schanab Dreiser. His father worked at the

Riverside Woolen Mills. To help purchase the house now to be made a memorial, Dresser's mother sewed for Wabash Avenue tailors for 50 cents a day. (Author Theodore Dreiser, who was much younger than Paul, was born after the family moved from Terre Haute to Sullivan.)

Dresser was baptized at St. Joseph Catholic Church and when he was 15 years old he was sent to St. Meinrad Seminary in southern Indiana. He had then worked for two years at the woolen mill, a bakery, a newsstand, as a pressman and as train boy.

Running away from the seminary, Dresser joined a traveling medicine show in Indianapolis as an entertainer. While he was selling Hamlin's Wizard Oil, Poet James Whitcomb Riley was an entertainer for Townsend's Magic Oil show.

Employment in a minstrel show and theaters followed, during which the composer wrote his songs and several plays. With two other men, he organized a music publishing house and prospered a few years. Eventually, however, both his firm and his health failed, as well as his creative talent.

Dresser died at the home of his sister in New York and was buried there. Later, his remains were removed to St. Boniface Cemetery in Chicago, where his mother was buried.

BY THE time he was 41 years old, Dresser had written 25 hits. He built his songs out of life, and they are still such a pleasure to Hoosiers that they want to honor him with this memorial on Dresser Drive, which was named for him, on the Wabash River he loved.

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# Consider Home Of Dresser <sup>59</sup> For Memorial

The 100-year-old brick house that was the birthplace of Paul Dresser, Terre Haute's famous native son, may become a state memorial if efforts of local historians are successful.

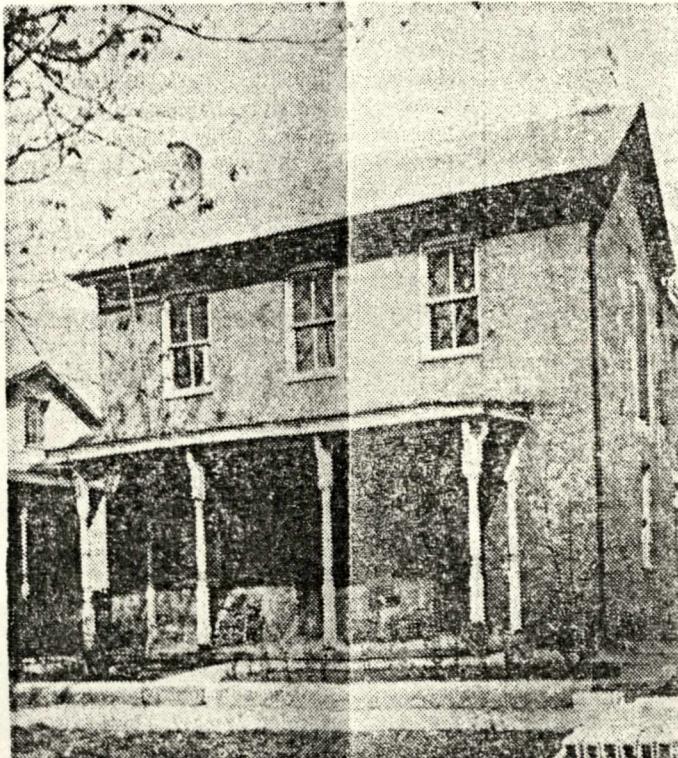
Friday the structure on South Second street was examined by Hubert Hawkins, executive secretary of the Indiana Historical Bureau, at the suggestion of Governor Harold W. Handley. With Hawkins rests the decision as to whether or not it will be recommended for restoration to the State Board of Parks and Memorials.

For several months Mrs. Dorothy Clark, John G. Biel and others of the Vigo County Historical Society have explored the possibilities for saving the Dresser home. Upon learning that the building was in the area to be razed as part of the initial urban renewal project, they wrote the Governor who suggested they consult the Historical Bureau. It is the local society's hope that the house can be restored to good condition and furnished in the period.

## Officials Invited.

Invited to accompany Hawkins and society members on the inspection visit were State Repre-

Continued On Page 6, Column 6.



BIRTHPLACE OF PAUL DRESSER, bard of the Wabash, which the Vigo County Historical Society hopes will become a state memorial. The 100-year-old brick house is located at 318 South Second street.

# Consider Home Of Dresser For Memorial

Continued From Page One.

sentatives Walter H. Maehling, Hubert Werneke and Birch E. Bayh, State Senators V. Dewey Anakin and Leonard Conrad and representatives of the Banks of the Wabash Association.

Following this the group went to Memorial Hall in order that the state historian could see the improvements there after its recent renovation.

In the past there has been some question as to the exact Dresser birthplace, but according to Mrs.

Clark the house at 318 South Second street has been definitely established as the correct one. A two-story structure, it was a one story at the time Dresser's father bought it and the elder Dresser added the second floor sometime after he completed the purchase in January, 1859, before Paul was born in April of that year. The house was sold by the family in 1863 for the sum of \$875. It is

now rental property and is occupied.

Dresser is perhaps best known as the author of "On the Banks of the Wabash" which was adopted as the official state song by resolution of the Indiana General Assembly in 1913, seven years after his death.

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PAUL DRESSER HOME, 318 Second street, was inspected Friday for possible recommendation as state shrine at governor's request by H. H. Hawkins (second from right), executive secretary of the Indiana Historical Bureau. With him in front of the former Dresser home are (left) Mrs. J. J. Ury, Mr. Ury, V. S. Meister, Representative Walter Maehling, Mrs. Robert I. Clark and John Biel, all local residents and members of the Vigo County Historical Society.

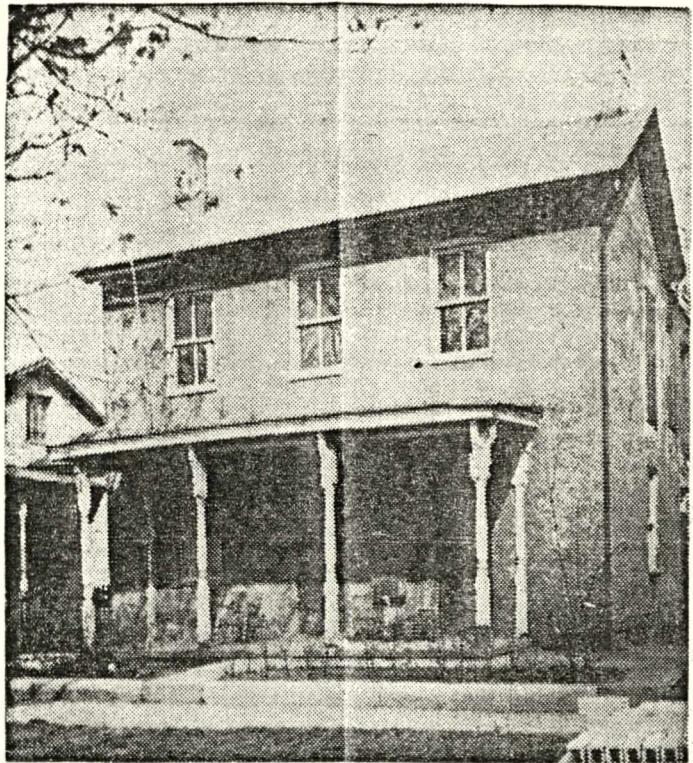
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Photo by Charles.

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PAUL DRESSER BIRTHPLACE—An anonymous donor has contributed \$500 toward the estimated \$5,500 necessary to move this house at 318 South Second street, birthplace of the famous song writer, to a location in Fairbanks Park along Dresser Drive and the east bank of the Wabash River. The Vigo County Historical Society has named a Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee and rented a post office box (No. 1041) to which, it is hoped, interested persons will mail contributions.

The house is located in the city's redevelopment area and must be moved if it is to be established as a perpetual shrine to Dresser who wrote such memorable tunes as "On The Banks of the Wabash." City officials expect to begin acquiring property in the redevelopment area by June 1 and have stated their willingness to sell the house to the historical society for a token price of \$1, subject to removal, according to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, society official. The house is more than 100 years old. The estimated \$5,500 figures includes cost of moving and establishment on a new foundation.

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**PAUL DRESSER LIBRARY DISPLAY**—Martha Reynolds, left, head of adult services at the Emaline Fairbanks Memorial Library, 222 North Seventh street, and Mrs. Robert I. Clark, chairman of the Vigo County Historical Society's special committee for the preservation of the Paul Dresser birthplace in Terre Haute, view a display of Dresser mementoes, musical manuscripts, writings, printed records, etc., now on public display at the Library. Photo by Charles

## Dresser Wrote Cuban Tune; Continue Drive for Funds

TS 4-30-1941

By EULETA SLOVER

"We are coming, Cuba, coming!"

Hold on, there is no threat intended in this lead, quite the contrary. It is merely the title of a song of the 1898 period in American history in which the United States and former President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, as lieutenant colonel of the famed "Roughriders," stormed up San Juan Hill in the Spanish American War.

The battle was one of the two American land victories that broke the Spanish power in Cuba, paving the way for the country's independence which is currently in the yoke of Dictator Fidel Castro.

The song was written by Terre Haute's famous composer son, Paul Dresser, and carried the inspiring promise to the Cuban people that their neighbor to the north, then as now, would keep their promise to support freedom-loving people.

American ship had been sunk and U. S. lives lost and Congress had declared that a state of war existed between the Spanish government and the U. S. when Dresser penned the words of the song, one of 25 of his earliest hits which are being displayed this week at the Emaline Fairbanks Memorial Library.

### Album of Music.

They are contained in an album of bound sheet music among which is one of the first copies of Dresser's immortal "On the Banks of the Wabash," now Indiana's official state song.

The display was set up by the Vigo County Historical Society and its special committee, the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, to further emphasize the current drive to raise funds for the removal of the Dresser home place to a permanent memorial location in Fairbanks Park.

Through the co-operation of Stillman K. Taylor, library director, the display is open to all viewers during the regular library hours.

It also contains a handkerchief memento of Dresser's theatrical days when the introduction of hits traditionally drew large crowds to hear each song debut.

As the ladies entered the theater they were presented with the handkerchiefs upon which were artistically displayed the words of the tune to be introduced. As the orchestra struck up the music, the gallery joined in with the words and the "community sing" was under way.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the birthplace preservation committee, said she found the valuable keepsake "in an attic"

but declined to specify where. Restored and preserved in a glass covering and frame, the inexpensive cotton material contains the words of a mother's advice to her son in matters of love.

Cautioning him to remember that his mother was once a girl like the friend he was about to date, the lyrics carry the title admonition "Don't Tell Her That You Love Her" unless you mean it.

The words read:

"A youth was on the way to see his sweetheart fond and true  
To whisper tales of love into her ear,  
While passing thru the old home gate,  
he heard a gentle voice—  
He turned to greet his best friend,  
Mother dear!  
You're going to see your sweetheart now,  
be careful what you say,  
Don't break her heart because she's fond of you,  
Don't tell her that you love her if you don't, remember Tom  
That one man out of ten is seldom true.

"Don't tell her that she's all to you on earth unless it's true,  
Don't tell her how you both will happy be;

"Don't whisper tales of endless bliss because her heart is yours,  
Remember, I was once a girl like she.

"Don't break her heart because you know she loves you, if you do  
Twill all come back to you in future years—

"Prosperity is one thing, lad, in life you'll seldom find  
It moving hand in hand with sighs and tears.

### REFRAIN:

"Don't tell her that you love her, don't say what you will do,  
Don't promise that you'll wed her just because she's fond of you;  
Don't tell her of the future years and all that you'd go through  
For her sake, do not tell her this, mankind is seldom true."

Under the handkerchief's song title is the inscription "by Paul Dresser, author of 'Just Tell Them That You Saw Me,'" another of his famous songs found

in the autographed album along with the sheet music of the kerchief theme.

Others to be found therein are "I Wonder If She'll Ever Come Back to Me," "In the Sweet Summer Time," "Sweet Savannah," "Come Tell Me What's Your Answer, Yes or No," "A Dream of My Boyhood Days," "I Wish That You Were Here Tonight," "Our Country May She Always Be Right, But Our Country Right or Wrong," "He Brought Home Another," "Your God Comes First, Your Country Next, Then Mother Dear," "A Sailor's Grave by the Sea," "The Old Flame Flickers and I Wonder Why," "If You See My Sweetheart," "I Was Looking for My Boy, She Said on Decoration Day," "You're Going Far Away, Lad, or I'm Still Your

Mother Dear," "Take a Seat, Old Lady," "Every Night There's a Light," "We Fight Tomorrow, Mother," "He Fought for the Cause He Thought Was Right," "Show Me the Way—Sacred Song," and "Say Yes, Love."

Dresser's strong attachment to his mother, whom he established in a home in Sullivan after he made good in the musical world, and his deep feeling of patriotism are clearly noted in many of his song titles. He died Jan. 24, 1906, in New York but was buried in Chicago's Boniface cemetery beside his beloved mother.

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**Wrote "My Gal Sal."**

Before his death, Dresser also gave to the musical world such standards as "My Gal Sal," which was used as the there song for a Hollywood movie some 15 years ago.

The display also contained such articles as Dresser's autographed picture presented to Miss Mary South of 60 South Twentieth street, daughter of Dresser's old friend, the late Col. E. E. South, and to whom "On the Banks of the Wabash" was dedicated.

The display also contains plans and specifications for the restoration of the Dresser birthplace as it will appear on the new location in the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets where it is to be moved from 318 South Second street some time after June 1.

Cash contributions to date total nearly \$1,200, reports Mrs. Clark, with pledges swelling the figure to well over \$2,000.

An estimated \$5,000-\$6,000 has been given as the cost of removing the house from its present location to the Fairbanks Park site, secured from the city on a 50-year lease basis and overlooking Dresser Memorial Drive and the river the famous bard immortalized for all time.

The fact that the house is located in the Southwest Area Project, which is being cleared under the city's urban renewal program, probably is a point in favor of the Dresser Memorial since it is forcing a removal of the dwelling which will now become a part of the original Dresser Memorial Drive area.

**Launched Drive Years Ago.**

Establishment of the Dresser homeplace in the memorial area will culminate general memorial efforts originally begun in 1922 when the Paul Dresser Memorial Association was organized. Through donations, they raised nearly \$30,000 and in 1926 purchased nine acres of land for the Dresser Memorial at the west edge of the river bridge.

In 1933 and 1936 the project was furthered with landscaping of the area and installation of other features across the highway to the south. Members of that committee were V. Dewey Anna-kin, Carl Bauermeister Sr., J. B. Bindley Sr., Mrs. Herbert Briggs, William F. Cronin, George O. Dix, Fred G. Heinl, R. L. McCormick, Vernon McMillan (then mayor), Robert F. Nitsche, Robert G. Nunn, Charles E. Piety, Fred M. Powell and L. J. Quinlan.

As the program terminated there was one vacancy on the board caused by the death of Max Ehrmann, prominent literary figure and personal friend of Dresser, who wrote a detailed account of Dresser's life.

Contributors to the moving fund this past week included a \$10 donation from the Fair Gardens Garden Club and an offer to plant flowers and shrubs around the house when it is finally situated upon its new location.

From the Deming School fourth grade pupils of Mrs. Anna J. Libert came a \$5 donation, \$2 of it representing the youngsters' most recent Parent-Teacher Association attendance award.

"We have been studying about Terre Haute and Vigo County all year. We are going on a trip to see many places and sites in May. We are especially interested in Paul Dresser's Home," ran the text of the attached note.

The latest list of contributors includes:

Mrs. Roy O. Denham .....	\$ 2.00
Mrs. Walter Bunch, Pensacola, Fla. ....	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. C. Weir Kirk .....	1.00
Newcomers' Club .....	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Julian B. Hicks .....	10.00
Merry Moms' Home Demonstra- tion Club .....	3.00
Dr. Paul E. Humphrey and Dr. William L. Veach .....	10.00
Brandywine Creek Chapter DAR, Greenfield, Ind. ....	5.00

Persons wishing to contribute are asked to mail their donations to: "Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind."

# Contributors to Paul Dresser Home Project Increasing

TS - 4-3-1961

The list of contributors to the cost of moving the Paul Dresser birthplace from its present location at 318 South Second street to a permanent location and memorial site in Fairbanks Park, continues to grow.

Officials of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, named by the sponsoring Vigo County Historical Society, this week disclosed additional receipt of \$185.75 from 22 persons and eight organizations through the county and state. Last week more than \$1,000 had been received toward the \$5,000-\$6,000 sum being sought.

One of the contributions came from as far away as Wisconsin, according to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the committee, who advised that many other encouraging offers are being received relative to setting up the long-anticipated Dresser memorial here.

Raymond F. Fischer, vice president and secretary of the Smith-Alsop Paint & Varnish Company, notified Mrs. Clark that this company will donate all the paint and wallpaper necessary to the restoration of the house to its original hominess.

## More Help Reported.

Don Coverstone, local painting contractor has offered to supply all the labor for the painting and papering, and Mrs. Frank Meharry, resident of the Stop 15 Road on RR 7, has stated her desire to furnish one of the bedrooms with antiques from her collections.

Mrs. Clark said Mrs. Meharry has an outstanding doll collection which she proposes to include in the room's decor. All items will be of the 100-year-old vintage, she noted, since construction of the Dresser house dates back more than a century.

Authenticity of the house was established through local real estate records. Mrs. Clark, member of the historical society and a widely recognized historian, stated.

Final proof of the correctness of the finding was information contained on an early photograph of the dwelling and presented to Edward Dreiser by the famous Terre Haute song writer.

Dr. Vera Dreiser, noted New York psychiatrist, historian of her famous family and daughter of Edward Dreiser, supplied the proof from her family keepsakes.

In his own handwriting at the bottom of the photograph, Dresser wrote: "Place where I was born 'On the Banks of the Wabash' Terre Haute, Ind." It was inscribed "To my brother, Ed" and signed "Paul Dresser."

Mrs. Clark said the signature had been authenticated by handwriting experts against Dresser's acknowledged signature on song manuscripts and musical scores.

## House Much the Same.

Except for the fact that the early photo shows the dwelling equipped with shutters, ornate porch decorations of the period and void of sidewalks and pavement in front of it, the house appears much the same as today.

In addition to the dirt sidewalk and streets that prevailed in the Dresser neighborhood when young Paul was a lad, the traditional hitching post and horse-feeding box can be seen in the early snapshot.

The two-story brick structure was built by Dresser's father, who was once a music teacher in an early school of the emerging city. It reportedly contained an outside stairway which historical society officials plan to include in the restoration.

The latest receipts now bring the total contributions to nearly more than \$1,200 with between \$5,000 and \$6,000 being estimated as the amount needed to move the house and situate it on a new foundation located on the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets. The sum also included fees for legal fees and similarly related costs.

The society's committee hopes to raise the necessary expenditure by June 1, the date on which the city will begin purchasing property in the Southwest Project Area wherein the Dresser homeplace is now located. It is in the urban renewal area designated for clearance.

Mayor Ralph Tucker and his city administration have granted the historical society a 50-year lease on the park site and has agreed to purchase the house from its present owner, pursuant to urban renewal program procedure.

Subsequently, they have further agreed to sell the house (not the land) to the society for the token price of \$1 with the understanding that it is to be moved immediately and a memorial established.

Thereafter, Mrs. Clark said the matter of its restoration will be instituted, all the furniture and furnishings to be at least 100 years old. "Nothing pretentious will be considered," she added, "since we are sure the Dresser family lived very modestly."

The latest list of contributors includes the following:

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Miss Grace E Davis	\$20.00
Miss Frances Halberstadt	5.00
New Castle	5.00
Mrs. J G Collings	5.00
Cradle of Liberty, DAR	
Petersburg	10.00
Obiah Tavor Chapter	
DAR, Lowell	2.00
Mrs. Dorothy Yeager	5.00
Miss Maude Ote	5.00
Women's Dept. Club	25.00
Elena Duckworth	2.00
Marijory Wiandt	2.00
Frieda Flesher	2.00
Henry C Gray	
Elm Grove, Wis.	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Lewis	5.00
Mrs. D. C. Johnson	5.00
Wabash Valley Chapter, DAR	5.00
Edward Malooley	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Maienschein	2.00
A Friend	24.25
Mr. and Mrs. Loring C. Halberstadt	20.00
Lost Creek Home Demonstration Club	10.00
Prairie Creek Home Demonstration Club	5.00
Marguerite Debs Cooper	5.00
Neiva Home Demonstration Club	2.00
Kentland Chapter, DAR	
Kentland	5.00
Mrs. J. M. Smith, Sullivan	1.00
Charlotte Wild	2.00
Flora H. Smith	5.00

The Women's Department Club contribution was accompanied by the expression of their pleasure in supporting the establishment of the Dresser Memorial "since one of the club members, Miss Mary South, was the girl to whom Paul Dresser dedicated 'On the Banks of the Wabash.'"

Dresser's song, currently a standard the world over and adopted as Indiana's official state song, does bear the dedication to Miss South, resident of 60 South Twentieth street, on all published sheet music.

Miss South is the daughter of the late Col. South, prominent Terre Haute musician and personal friend of Dresser who was an oft visitor in the South household.

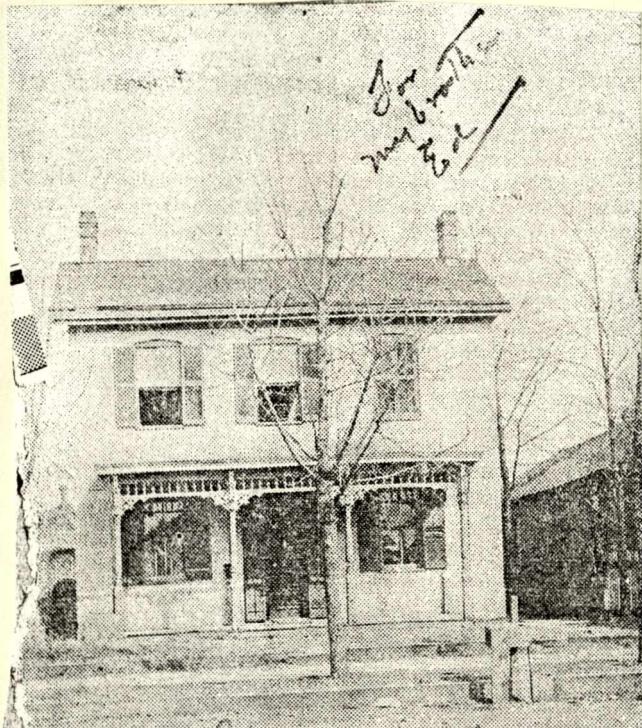
Community Affairs File

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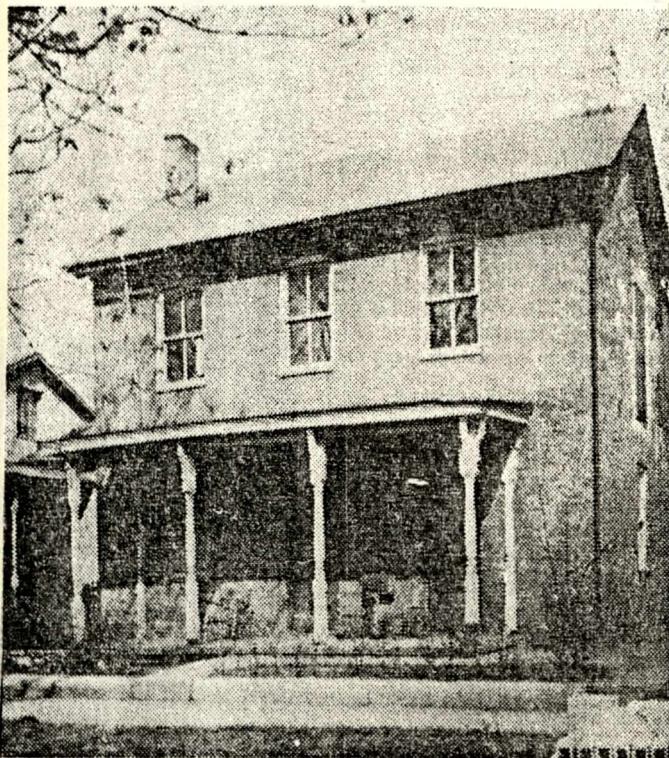
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Place where I was born "On  
the Banks of the Wabash  
Terre Haute, Ind. Paul Dresser



THEN AND NOW—At top is a photo of the Paul Dresser birthplace at 318 South Second street as it appeared in Dresser's day. At bottom is the same house as it appears today and in which condition it will soon be moved to a permanent location in Fairbanks Park, there to be a perpetual memorial to the beloved Terre Haute song writer.

# Open Drive to Move Dresser Birthplace to Fairbanks Park

By EULETA SLOVER

The recently organized movement to relocate the Paul Dresser birthplace on a location in Fairbanks Park along Dresser Drive, as a perpetual memorial to the famous Terre Haute song writer, is making strong headway, according to informed sources.

After many years of advocating such a memorial, the Vigo County Historical Society has received a substantial initial contribution to the moving costs and has entered into a lease with the city government for the memorial site.

Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, chairman of the society's Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, said city officials have negotiated a 50-year lease with the Society for a spot of city park ground located on the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets.

Similarly, acting in the interest of community historical preservation, the City Redevelopment Commission has agreed to sell the Dresser home place to the society for the token sum of \$1.

## In Southwest Area.

It is located at 318 South Second street within the slum clearance boundaries of the Southwest Project Area of the city's urban renewal program.

In view of the more than 100 year old building's historical significance, the city has agreed to sell the house, but not the land, with the understanding that the historical society remove it from the area to be cleared for future development.

The society is presently engaged in a fund-raising effort to secure at least \$5,000 in donations to cover the cost of moving the house to the Fairbanks Park location. More than \$500 has already been received.

The estimated figure will satisfy the moving cost as well as construction of a new concrete foundation on which to rest the dwelling, necessary permits and other similarly associated expenditures.



Euleta Slover

The city expects to begin acquiring property in the project area by June 1 and the society proponents have been informed that they should have their moving fund accumulated by that date in order that there will be no delay in clearing the 318 South Second street location.

## Built by Father.

According to local history, Dresser's father built the house before the famous son was born. Young Paul grew to manhood in the shadow of the river which he immortalized in song and which has now become Indiana's state song.

It is especially appropriate, society officials opined, that the new location for Dresser's birthplace would place it virtually "On the Banks of the Wabash" as the title of his famous tune goes.

In a recent letter to members and friends of the historical society, the preservation committee wrote:

"Unless we of today do something about preserving historical spots, there will soon be none left for our children and grandchildren; there will be no graphic reminders of the heritage which is theirs and ours.

"History is nothing more than the record of facts which resulted in our great American heritage. The more we can make people conscious of their heritage, the less chance there will be of insidious infiltration of radical ideologies taking any effect which will undermine the 'freedoms' we enjoy as a part of that heritage."

They have invited any and all persons interested in preserving local history, and the Paul Dresser birthplace in particular, to send their contributions to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

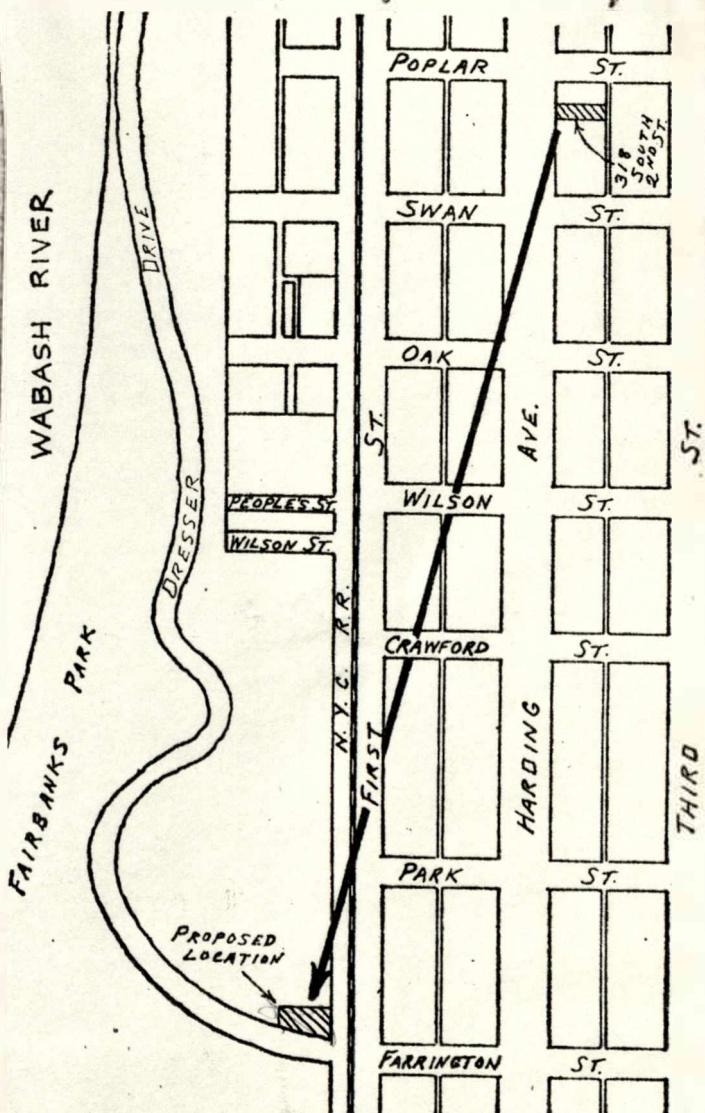
Mrs. Clark said the job of refurbishing the interior of the dwelling and furnishing it with furniture of Dresser's day will be undertaken later. She cautioned, however, that when the refurbishing and furnishing begins "nothing pretentious will be considered."

"Dresser (or Dreiser, as the family name actually is recorded) was a member of a poor, hard working family. We are now on the lookout for straight back chairs and other modest furniture of the period which we believe would have been used in the Dresser household. We want to make it as authentic as possible," she concluded.

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1961.

Int. At. Apr 2 - 1961



PROPOSED NEW DRESSER HOME LOCATION is indicated by the darkened arrow leading from the present location of the more than 100-year-old Paul Dresser birthplace at 318 South Second street to the future site in Fairbanks Park at the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets.

1961  
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# Movie Stars Display Interest In Moving Dresser Birthplace

Star-Trib April 1961  
By EULETA SLOVER

The current Terre Haute and Vigo county movement to establish a permanent memorial to the memory of Paul Dresser by renovation of the house in which he was born is receiving notice and support from throughout the state and various parts of the nation, according to latest information.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Vigo County Historical Society's Paul Dresser Birth-

Preservation Committee, reports that Dr. Vera Dreiser, Dresser's niece and a prominent New York psychiatrist, has promised substantial help from the Paul Dresser heirs.

Last year, Dr. Dreiser, who still uses the family name professionally although her famous song writer uncle altered it for his professional purposes long ago, visited Terre Haute and other parts of Indiana in compiling facts for a book she is writing on Paul and his brother, Theodore, who achieved fame as a novelist.

## Contact Louise Dresser.

Dr. Dreiser reportedly has also contacted Louise (Curlin) Dresser, former stage and movie star, who received her big start in New York show business on the recommendation of Dresser.

Dresser is said to have presented her to New York theatrical agents as his sister, giving her his name as a favor to her father, Will Curlin, who had befriended the song writer in his youthful days as a train boy in Terre Haute.

Curlin, an engineer on the old Terre Haute and Evansville Rail-

road, struck up a long-lasting friendship with young Paul who displayed an outstanding quality of musical greatness from his earliest days.

The message of the proposed Terre Haute memorial has also been carried by Dr. Dreiser to film star Rita Hayworth, who received international acclaim for her title role in the movie "My Gal Sal," featuring one of Dresser's most popular standards.

## Contact University.

Indiana University officials who maintain a large collection of Dresser-Dreiser materials in their library, have also been contacted, along with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, Dr. Dreiser stated.

Meanwhile, contributions and letters of encouragement are also being received from Terre Haute and Vigo county individuals, organizations and civic groups as well as numerous residents of adjoining states and counties who have also expressed a desire to see the historical facts surrounding Dresser's life perpetuated.

The Dresser birthplace, presently located in the Southwest Area Project sector of the city's urban renewal program, must be removed and the area cleared, according to previous announcement.

## Society Conducts Drive.

Under an agreement with city officials, the historical society and its committee are seeking funds, between \$5,000 and \$6,000, to finance its removal to a leased site in Fairbanks Park, situated on the east bank of the Wabash River and through which Dresser Drive winds.

The funds will cover cost of moving the dwelling and constructing it on a new foundation site of the park, specifically the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets. A 50-year lease has been secured on the site.

Letters of encouragement have also been received from the League of Terre Haute and the Claude L. Herbert Camp No. 38 of the United Spanish-American War Veterans. Mrs. Clark advised, adding that "contributions to date range well over \$1,000."

The committee hopes to raise the sum by June 1, the date the city is to begin acquiring property in the project area.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Latest contributions include the following:

Vigo County Labor Council	\$10
St. Mary's Home Demonstration Club	1
Linton Township Home Demonstration Club	10
Riley Worthwhile Home Demonstration Club	5
Miss Florise Hunsucker	5
John G. Biel	50
Dr. Betty Foster	10
Garden Lane Home Demonstration Club	3

Mrs. Ellwood Ramsey, Wheatland, Ind.	5
Miss Mary E. South	10
Don Coverstone	2
Gilbert S. Cluder	5
Willard C. Martin	5
Miss Helen Reeve	5
Mrs. Roy E. Buren	5
R. T. Brentlinger, Hammond, Ind.	25
Mrs. Frank L. Moss, Paris, Ill.	5
Misses Frances and Elsie Lammerts	5
Miss Esther Housman	1
Ralph E. Stahl	1
F. J. Homberg	5
Mrs. Bess R. Cunningham	5
Mrs. William R. McKeen	3
Mrs. Jane C. Hazledine	4
Vigo County Funeral Directors	10
Ida R. Smith, Prairieton	5

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## Contributions Are Lagging For Dresser Home Project

*Ind. Star May 21-1961*

Financial contributions in the campaign by the Vigo County Historical Society for a Paul Dresser Memorial to be set up in Fairbanks Park are lagging according to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the drive committee.

To date only \$1,499.01 in actual cash has been received, it was reported. The contributions will be used to effect the removal of the Dresser house to its new location at the park.

The Terre Haute Board of Park Commissioners have voted a 50-year, rent-free lease on a 200-foot-square park area for the site of the home.

Cost of moving the house from its present location at 318 South Second street was estimated at

between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Mrs. Clark pointed out that the cost would include moving, construction of a permanent concrete foundation, legal fees, permits and similarly associated expenses.

### Deadline Is June 1.

Committee members hope to raise the necessary sum by June 1, the date on which the city is scheduled to begin purchasing property in the Southwest Area Project boundaries.

The Dresser home is located in the area and must be removed in the city's clearance movement under the development and urban renewal program.

The city has agreed to purchase the home from its present

owner and sell it to the society for \$1 providing it is removed from the land at once.

Persons wishing to contribute to the drive are requested to address their letters to "Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, Post Office Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind."

### The latest list of contributors:

Miss Opal Edwards	\$ 5.00
Frances Sielcum Chapter, DAR Wabash, Ind.	2.00
Lafayette Home Demo. Club.	5.00
Midway Home Demo. Club.	5.00
John W. Lyda	3.00
Harrison Home Demo. Club	5.00
William A. Dennis, Paris, Ill.	10.00
Misses Mary J. Kadel and Anna K. Kadel	10.00
Austin Manhart Prairieton, Ind.	2.00
Nature Study Section, Woman's Dept. Club	10.00
Mrs. Forrest Sherer	10.00
Miss Thelma Newcomer, Gresham, Ore.	1.00

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## Paul Dresser Home Removal Project Gaining Support

*Sub - 16 May 29-1961*

By EULETA SLOVER

The latest list of contributors to the Paul Dresser Memorial Fund includes a memorial to a young mother and her son, killed little more than two weeks ago in an automobile accident near Brazil and a noted authority on the life of Theodore Dreiser, brother of the famous Terre Haute song writer.

The memorial contribution was made by friends at Indiana State Teachers College in tribute to Mrs. Betty Acheson Mann and Tommy Mann, 18 months old.

They died May 13 in a one-car mishap west of Brazil. She is an ISTC graduate and counted the contributors among her many friends. In proposing the memory gift, they termed Mrs. Mann "vitally interested in the Wabash Valley area" and such public interest endeavors as the historical Dresser memorial.

The Dreiser authority was identified as Dr. Robert P. Saalbach, who spoke here recently and who has accepted membership on the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee established by the Vigo County Historical Society.

### Need Funds for Project.

The committee is currently endeavoring to raise between \$5,000 and \$6,000 to finance the removal of the Dresser home place from 318 South Second street to an area of Fairbanks Park.

The location site is on the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets and has been granted to the Society by the City Park Board on a 50-year rent-free basis.

The house, to be acquired by the City Department of Redevelopment and sold to the Society for the token fee of \$1, will be set up on a new concrete foundation. The quoted sum does not include cost of refurnishing and furnishing, only moving, legal fees, permits and similarly associated expenditures, according to officials.

Persons and organizations wishing to contribute to the fund are invited to address their letters to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

The latest list of contributors brings the total receipts to date to \$1,627.01 and reads as follows:

"In Memory of Betty Acheson Mann and son, Tommy Mann," from friends	\$10
Pimento School First Grade	5
Mrs. Adelman's Fourth Grade,	
Thornton School	2
Betty Worthington, Logansport	1
Arthur E. Blood	5
Mrs. Ruth Parr	2

Mr. and Mrs. Roy F. Gibson	5
Curtis Culver	3
Robert Voll	1
Stillman K. Taylor	1
Emanuel Gorland	5
Dr. Robert P. Saalbach	10
Mayor Ralph Tucker	25
Leon Purcell	1
Sylvia Chincoff	1
Carmenita Foley	15
Hazel J. Davis	5
Florence A. Richards	3
Youngstown Home Demonstration	3
Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. Brown	10
Calumet Chapter, DAR, East Chicago, Ill.	5
Mrs. Fred Wampler	5
Mrs. Walter Frakes	5
Mrs. Dean Smiley	10
U. S. Army Mothers, Post No. 1	2

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CHILDREN CONTRIBUTE—Donating funds to the Paul Dresser Memorial Fund for a memorial to be set up in Fairbanks Park were members of the fourth grade class at Thornton School. Presenting the donation to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the drive, which is sponsored by the Vigo County Historical Society, is Margaret Piety. *Int. Star May 28, 1961.*

Photo by Charles.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

# Otter Creek Girls Project to Help Dresser Fund

*Star 6-1961*  
June 6, 1961

During the evening shopping hours this Friday and next Monday, June 12, six Otter Creek Township girls will solicit funds for the Paul Dresser memorial fund in downtown Terre Haute. This fund is currently dedicated to the removal of the Dresser birthplace to a permanent memorial site in Fairbanks Park.

Misses Linda Meharry, Jill Wade, Becky Shaw, Ellen White, Linda Stultz and Connie White will be dressed in the attire of Dresser's day. The girls will carry gaily beaded handbags in which individuals will be invited to place their donations.

+++

**MAYOR** Ralph Tucker has given official assent for the street solicitation which will support the community-interest project. Mrs. Dorothy Clark announced last week. Mrs. Clark has been named chairman of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee by the sponsoring Vigo County Historical Society.

Contributions to the fund being raised by the preservation committee total \$1,991.76 to date, according to Mrs. Clark. The girls' collection will be added to the fund.

+++

**AN OUTLINE** of the entire program of removing and restoring the Dresser home place will be made at an open meeting of the local historical society on Tuesday, June 13. Interested persons are invited to attend the meeting to be held at the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley, Sixth and Washington streets.

A special program designed to emphasize the Dresser era will be presented at this time. Mrs. Clark will recount the Dresser story and Weir Kirk will present a program of Dresser's most outstanding contributions to music. There will also be a question-and-answer session concerning the removal and restoration program.

+++

**THE AMOUNT** needed to complete the removal of the dwelling has been estimated at \$5,000 to \$6,000. Persons wishing to contribute to the program are invited to mail their contributions to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

*Community Affairs File*

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## Dresser Fund Tops \$2,000

*2nd Jan 1961*

Contributions collected by six Otter Creek township girls in the downtown shopping area Friday evening sent the Paul Dresser memorial fund over the \$2,000 mark.

The girls, Linda Meharry, Becky Shaw, Ellen White, Linda Stultz, Connie White and Phyllis Brackall, did their collecting dressed in the attire of Dresser's day.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Paul Dresser Preservation Committee, reported the girls collected donations from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Dresser fund is dedicated to the removal of the Dresser birthplace to a permanent memorial site in Fairbanks Park. It has been estimated that between \$5,000 and \$6,000 will be needed to complete the removal of the dwelling. Mrs. Clark said that persons desiring to contribute to the program are invited to mail their donations to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

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DRESSER BIRTHPLACE  
RESTORATION FUND

*Ind. June 16-1961*  
**TOTALS \$2,156.48**

Contributions to the fund being accumulated to help move and restore Paul Dresser's birthplace totaled \$2,156.48 today, according to Mrs. Robert I. Clark.

Recent contributors included:

Deming School Y-Teens	\$ 2.00
Otter Creek High School girls' solicitation	28.72
Riley Volunteer Fire Dept. Aux.	2.00
Winifred L. Worner	5.00
Mrs. John Phelps	5.00
Charles Jones	2.00
Miss Gertrude McComb	25.00
Miss Rula Tobe	1.00
Miss Hallie Tobe	1.00
Miss Lela O'Hern	5.00
Ladies Auxiliary to the Vigo County Conservation Club	5.00
Theodore J. Anthony, New Lebanon, Ind.	2.00
Morton Corp. No. 11	2.00
Terre Haute Junior	

Chamber of Commerce	10.00
Monday Afternoon Book Club	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Rector	5.00
Sen. Homer E. Capehart	10.00
Plumbers & Steam Fitters Auxiliary No. 81	10.00

Persons wishing to donate to the fund may mail contributions to Paul Dresser Fund, P. O. Box 1041.

Community Affairs File

## New Gifts Listed *Star Date 7-1-66* For Dresser Fund

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, reported last night that the Terre Haute and Vigo County Retired Teachers Association had contributed \$100 to the Dresser fund. This contribution increased the fund total to \$2,256.48.

An estimated \$5,000 to \$6,000 has been fixed as the amount needed to complete the removal of the Dresser dwelling from 318 South Second Street to the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets. The house is located in the Southwest Area Project limits of the city's redevelopment program and must be moved to clear the land for the urban renewal progress.

Persons wishing to donate to the program are invited by Mrs. Clark to send their contributions to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

Recent contributors include the following:

Terre Haute and Vigo County Retired Teachers Association	\$100.00
Otter Creek High School Girls' solicitation	28.72
Deming School Y-Teens	2.00
Riley Volunteer Fire Dept. Aux.	2.00
Winifred L. Worner	5.00
Mrs. John Phelps	5.00
Charles Jones	2.00
Miss Gertrude McComb	25.00
Miss Rula Tobey	1.00
Miss Hallie Tobey	1.00
Miss Lela O'Hern	5.00
Ladies Auxiliary to the Vigo County Conservation Club	5.00
Theodore J. Anthony, New Lebanon, Ind.	2.00
Morton Corp. No. 11	2.00
Terre Haute Junior Chamber of Commerce	10.00
Monday Afternoon Book Club	5.00
Mr and Mrs. Wm. R. Rector	5.00
Sen. Homer E. Capehart	10.00
Plumbers & Steam Fitters Auxiliary No. 84	10.00

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## Paul Dresser Memorial Fund Half Subscribed

Community Affairs File

*Int 30-34-1961*  
The Paul Dresser Birthplace  
Preservation Committee has  
raised half the funds needed for  
moving the Dresser Home to a  
new location.

One of the latest donations  
came from the estate of the late  
State Representative Walter H.  
Maehling, who was a member of  
the first preservation committee.

An application for financial  
assistance to the Eli Lilly Endow-  
ment fund by the committee has  
been rejected, according to com-  
mittee chairman Mrs. Dorothy  
Clark.

Although the Lilly Foundation  
considered the Dresser project  
worthwhile and reported that the  
application was satisfactory, no  
funds were available for use out-  
side of Indianapolis.

The Birthplace Committee will  
meet at the Elks Country Club

Thursday evening to discuss  
further means of acquiring addi-  
tional funds. Members are Ralph  
Learnard, John G. Biel, W. R.  
Bindley, Dr. Robert P. Saalbach,  
E. J. Whalen and Mrs. Clark.

Persons wishing to contribute  
to the program are invited by  
Mrs. Clark to send their donations  
to the Paul Dresser Birth-  
place Preservation Committee,  
P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute.

The latest list of contributors  
includes:

Estate of late Rep. Maehling	\$25.00
Leonard Conrad	5.00
Miss Mary K. MacBeth	5.00
Miss Blanche E. Richardson	10.00
Davis Ardmore—Home Demonstration Club	2.00

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## Dresser Fund at Half-Way Mark

Application for financial assistance to the Eli Lilly Endowment Fund by the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee has been rejected, according to committee chairman Mrs. Dorothy Clark. Although the Lilly foundation considered the Dresser project worthwhile and reported that the application was satisfactory, no funds are available for use outside Indianapolis.

However, Mrs. Clark reported that contributions yesterday totaled half the amount needed for the removal and restoration

One of the latest donations came from the estate of the late State Representative Walter H. Maehling. Maehling was a member of the first preservation committee.

The Birthplace Committee will meet at the Elks Country Club Thursday evening to discuss further means of acquiring additional funds. Members are Ralph Learnard, John G. Biel, W. R. Bindley, Dr. Robert P. Saalbach, E. J. Whalen and Mrs. Clark.

Persons wishing to contribute to the program are invited by Mrs. Clark to send their donations to the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute.

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Davis Ardmore—Home Demonstration Club	.....	2.00

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## Dresser Memorial Fund at \$2,485

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, has reported that the fund totals \$2,485.03 at the latest count. It has been estimated that it will take some \$5,000 to remove the Dresser dwelling at 318 South Second Street to a site in Fairbanks Park.

The local Civitan Club is reportedly going all-out to obtain money for the Dresser fund. A vocal quartet of Harry Rowe, Jack Besson, Kenny Roman and Harold Whaley has conducted radio auctions and given the proceeds to the fund. They sing throughout the area and collect contributions for the restoration of the Dresser dwelling.

Members of the local Good Cheer Club for the Blind recently donated \$19.95. A message accompanying the donation expressed the members' desire that "others may see although we cannot."

Other contributions include:

Paul C. Frisz	\$ 5.00
A. W. Lindholm	1.00
Mrs. G. W. Gambill	10.00
Dr. Rutherford B. Porter	10.00
James H. Mason	1.00
V. L. Tatlock	5.00
Eleanor Forsythe	1.00
Larry and Mary (Pound) Snow	10.00
Mrs. Hugh C. Brook	1.00
Sidney Levin	10.00
O. Allen	5.00
Mr. Anonymous	1.00
Curry Homemakers Club, Farmersburg, Ind.	6.00
Gladys M. Rohrig	2.00

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"AY, JUNE 29, 1926.

## NEW YORK PAPERS AID DRESSER MEMORIAL

Devoting Much Space to Enterprise  
Which Terre Haute Is Sponsoring  
—Some Quotations.

By Mique O'Brien.

Since the publication of Governor Warren T. McCray's proclamation calling for contributions to the Paul Dresser Memorial fund, which was sent out by Mayor Ora D. Davis, chairman and the committee in charge, letters have been coming from all parts of the country to the United States Trust company, each containing a remittance. The first of these letters to reach Billy Hamilton came from Robert D. Heinl, Jr., of Washington, D. C., who is one of the original boosters of the Paul Dresser memorial. Young "Bob" sent the price of several tops or toy balloons and a flock of marbles, preferring that his pin money should go to a project nearest the heart of his father.

Newspapers throughout the country have devoted an extraordinary amount of space to the Paul Dresser memorial. The theatrical and sporting newspapers have been especially generous, but the lead has been taken in doing honor in a substantial way to the memory of the Terre Haute song writer by the New York Morning Telegraph, for many years the most popular of all publications devoted to theatricals, racing, finance, motion pictures and general sports.

In last Sunday's issue of the New York Morning Telegraph, Ashley Deering, for years one of the most brilliant contributors to the unique newspaper, has a four-column article about Paul Dresser, written about the author of "The Banks of the Wabash" as only one who knew the well-loved Terre Hautean could write about him. From time to time playwrights, novelists, song writers and scenarioists, theatrical managers and movie magnates have graduated from the Morning Telegraph. Says Mr. Deering in his story:

When the great state of Indiana, through her executive department, issues a proclamation on behalf of a song-writer, who has immortalized her sylvan glories and the chief artery of her sentimentality, which is a river called the Wabash, then it is time for men and women of good heart to pause and think about it.

Here is the sense of the proclamation released today, June 24, concerning the late Paul Dresser, author of the words and music of "The Banks of the Wabash."

"To Indians and the sons and daughters of Indians the world over and to all other persons of all other states, who love this song, I now, Warren T. McCray, governor of the state of Indiana, do hereby proclaim that you are invited to contribute—each out of the voluntary impulse of his heart—to a fund for the aforesaid purpose of a suitable memorial, to mark the last earthly bed of Paul Dresser. 'On the Banks of the Wabash.'

### Sold Over a Million Copies. AL

This appeal will undoubtedly be reaching. For we were informed yesterday by Charles K. Harris, author of "After the Ball" and a hu-

other melodies sung throughout the civilized world, that his old pal's classic far exceeded a million copies of sheet music, to say nothing of millions of professional copies.

Paul Dresser was one of the best-beloved characters of Broadway, New York, twenty years ago. And it is believed that all New Yorkers who have known and admired the fast vanishing coterie of song writers who wrote their own music to their own lyrics, will respond to Governor McCray's message.

The news of the proclamation and its full text was contained in a letter to this writer from Mique O'Brien, dramatic editor of the Terre Haute (Indiana) Tribune, who is one of the executive committee of the Paul Dresser Memorial association, Inc. Mr. O'Brien was formerly a writer in the dramatic department of The Morning Telegraph and was one of the lifelong friends of the famous composer and lyric author.

### Tribute of Brother Author.

Charles K. Harris excused himself from a dozen visitors, yesterday, in his office in the Columbia theater building while he retired to the sacred precincts where he does his own composing to commune about Paul Dresser.

"No man in the whole United States was as close to Paul Dresser as I was. That was in the old days when song-writers wrote their own words to their own music. Today there are ten men who confer together on the selection of a title, ten more men write the music and there is at least one man at work on each verse of the song.

"There cannot be a very deep inspiration in a method like that. I trust you will not think I say this out of any vainglorious feeling. I am simply stating a forlorn fact.

"There are no song writers now such as they were in the old days.

"Years ago—how many I shall not venture to guess—Paul Dresser was an actor. That was when I was living in Milwaukee and carrying on a song publishing business. He was both an actor and a song writer. He played in a company called 'The Two Johns.' It was a comedy of two fat men. Paul was one of those fat men. I think the show ran for about four years.

### Advice of a Friend.

"As I say, I was in the publishing business and Paul was peddling his songs in New York at the same time he was acting out on the road—or be-

tween times. He would sell songs to anybody who would take them. He was what you might call a free lance. I told him one day, 'Now, Paul, when you get back to New York hunt up a couple of fellows in a music store who know their business. And you tell them that you will put in the songs and they put in their experience and their money. Form a partnership.'

"Pat Howley, a little hunchback fellow, who has been dead a long time, and Fred Haviland were both working for Oliver Ditson company. Paul Dresser got them interested and they formed the music publishing company of Howley, Haviland & Dresser. They were a success from the jump, Paul continuing on the road in the show business.

"My office was then in the Alhambra theatre building in Milwaukee, where Paul always made his headquarters. One day he said to me: 'Charley come down stairs with me to-morrow—Tuesday—and hear a singer sing a new song of mine for the first time.' You see, Paul's matinee was on Wednesday at Jake Litt's theater and he had time to attend this Tuesday afternoon performance in the vaudeville house. Come down and hear the song, 'On the Banks of the Wabash,' and tell me what you think of it.'

### Tears of Gratefulness.

"I went down to the vaudeville show and sat beside him and heard the song for the first time it was ever sung. After the rendition he turned to me and said: 'Well, Charley, what do you think of it?' I said: 'Paul you've got a sure-fire hit.' Tears welled in his eyes as he turned to me and said: 'Do you mean that, Charley?'

"I said: 'From the bottom of my heart I mean it.' I shook hands with him and we both went out to a telegraph office and he wired his firm 'Wabash looks like big hit. Big applause. Get song out immediately.'

"Then we went to a cafe and had a drink together. Now, right here, I am going to tell you a strange coincidence. The next season following this little episode, while he was playing in Milwaukee again, I said: 'Paul, I'm glad to see you. It was just as I predicted about "On the Banks of the Wabash." The song was then the sensational hit of America.'

"He said: 'Yes, your prediction were right. I expect this will be my last season on the road. My firm need me in New York. We are going to move into a large building at Broadway and Thirty-second street.'

### The Compliment Exchanged.

"And then I said, 'Paul, come down stairs and hear a new song of mine sung by the same singer that sang yours just a year ago.' We both sat side by side in the same vaudeville theater and heard my latest, 'Break the News to Mother.' And Paul Dresser turned to me and said, using almost the exact expression I had employed in commenting on 'On the Banks of the Wabash.'

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"Charley, said he, 'you've got a big hit there—as big a hit as "Wabash." And he surely predicted rightly. His song and mine eventually sold well over a million copies each.

"I want to tell you of a tacit understanding we had with each other—sort of gentlemen's agreement. No body ever knew of this before, that we would never complit in the same style of song. He followed 'Break the News to Mother' with a pathetic ballad entitled 'Just Tell Them That You Saw me.'

"Soon afterward I came back with a baby song, 'Always in the Way.' Then he brought out a soldier song, an entirely different theme, 'The Blue and the Gray.' I followed with a pastoral song, 'Mid the Green Fields of Virginia.' I think his next one was 'My Gal Sal.'

#### Equal Division of Sentiment.

"Anyhow, we never conflicted. We always wrote in a different style and we had practically the whole realm of popular songs to ourselves for some years. If he wrote a soldier song I would write a child song. If he wrote a pathetic ballad I would write a pastoral march song."

"'After the Ball' was written a long while before Paul Dresser got into the music publishing business and before 'On the Banks of the Wabash' was written. I had then more than half a hundred songs to my credit and had

been in the music publish at least five years.

"I moved from Milwaukee to New York just twenty-one years had my office in Thirty-first Street. The firm of Howley, Havas & Dresser had gone out of What were the causes of shall not attempt to say now. this: Paul was left with

"He came to see me," said: "Tell you what I'll do, Paul. I'm going to give you an office to be with me. Put your name on the door and publish all your songs. Exploit 'em. I'll split with you 50-50 on the business."

"Poor fellow, he was all choked up and he couldn't answer me at all. I just shook hands on it."

#### Died of Broken Heart.

"And the next day—oh, my friend, the next day after that—he died."

"I went over to his funeral and I cried like a baby. It seems—I figured it—it was just the same as if I were lying there. The priest recited many verses of Paul Dresser's most popular songs—those that had gone around the world. And that reverend father of the church could recite them without notes as big as a postage stamp.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the whole audience. The funeral was conducted by the Brooklyn Lodge of Elks."

#### Brother of a Novelist.

"I never knew Paul's folks. I know he has a brother, a great novelist, Theodore Dreiser. Paul spelled his name 'Dresser.' He is as much a New Yorker as a citizen of Indiana.

But I can understand why and how they loved him out there.

"Paul must have written at least fifty songs, any one of which would have entitled him to recognition as long as the art of music lasts, and the heart is able to respond to measured cadences. Among his best were 'The Curse,' sung by Imogene Comer, and he had another beauty song, called 'The Convict and the Bird.' Then there were 'Better Days,' 'My Gal, Sal'; 'Just Tell Them That You Saw Me'—oh, I could give you the whole long list of 'em if you had time and space for comment. He never had a poor one, never a failure.

"When he sat down to write a song, his heart and soul were in it. Money meant nothing to him; the love of beauty meant everything. When he got an inspiration he gave it to the world—words and music, all his own.

"Nobody ever tampered with his music or his lyrics. They couldn't. Nobody could touch any theme that was his. After it was done, he was through with it. I mean, any singer could have it.

#### Sol Bloom Story.

"Here's a little incident. Our present Congressman, Sol Bloom, was in the music business out in Chicago. He had a corner in a department store, where he sold thousands of Paul Dresser's compositions. He was one of Paul's greatest admirers. Sol gave a party at the home of his fiancee. I guess that was all of twenty-five years ago and it was to celebrate his engagement at that time. I was invited to come on

from Milwaukee to attend and of course I went. And Paul was there. We had quite a time.

"Sol Bloom rose to the occasion and said: 'Ladies and gentlemen, I have the proud pleasure to introduce to you two of the greatest song writers in the world—Charles K. Harris, author of "After the Ball," and Paul Dresser, author of "On the Banks of the Wabash." They have got to prove to us tonight which one is the better composer and let us be the judges.'

"Paul was asked to play one of his new compositions first and he finished amid great applause. Then it was my turn and I sang a new one. And so on until we were both hoarse and still they were clamoring for more. So we had to call a truce. Otherwise I suppose we would be singing there yet. We did have something refreshing and snobbing to drink between songs. I'm pleased to recall that fact.

#### In Little Red Book.

"Paul Dresser had a little red book—a memorandum book—he showed me one day. He said: 'There's all the people that owe me money.' I said: 'Why don't you collect?' And he replied: 'Every one turned me down.'

"That is what broke his heart—the ingratitude and the unreliability of those he had considered his friends.

"I was his most devoted pal in the world. He knew that. I can only give my personal experience and remembrance. Those were our days—days of the real heart story ballads that were sung throughout the whole world.

"I can see him now," continued Mr.

Harris, going over to the piano. "I can see him sitting here—his fat, chubby fingers running over the keys, his eyes fixed on space, dreaming out some beautiful idea—harmonizing it to some beautiful lyric.

"He used the same method that I have always used. He would never be seated at the piano unless he had the idea of the story and the music set in his brain. So that when he did touch the keyboard it was only to set the harmony he had already heard, humming in his mental process.

"He couldn't write a lyric to anybody else's music; neither could he set music to any other one's lyric, as he often told me. Because the combination would not fit, although he once said: 'I tried it several times, Charley.'

#### Written in the Statutes.

From the executive committee of Paul Dresser Memorial Association comes the following expression:

"Indiana sends cordial greeting from 'On the Banks of the Wabash.' The immortal song of Paul Dresser has been written into the statutes of the State of Indiana as the Indiana state song. The state has undertaken to erect a memorial in keeping with the standing of the great Wabash valley commonwealth and of its appreciation of the singer and love of his song.

"The site of the memorial is 'On the Bank of the Wabash' at the intersection of the National Old Trails Highway almost at the gateway connecting Indiana and Illinois. The Paul Dresser Memorial association invites the support of sons and daughters of Indiana throughout the world.

"May we not ask that you give news of this worthy enterprise as your space permits and your heart prompts?"

"Cordially,  
Paul Dresser Memorial Association, Inc.

"Charles Timothy Jewett,  
Max Ehrmann.

"Mique O'Brien.

"Executive Committee."

It is a noble cause—this recognition of Paul Dresser who wrote this song, which some of our greatest little quartets used to announce by the familiar name, "The Wubbish." I think we liked to announce it flippanly to save ourselves from breaking down while we were singing the sweet and lasting sentimental strains.

# ● Women of Dresser Family Aid Local Memorial Fund



SHERI SCOTT



DR. VERA DREISER

By EULETA SLOVER

For Beatrice Biggs

Tribune Club News Editor

Sub Jul 7, 1961

From California and New York City comes word that the heirs of Paul Dresser and his brother, Theodore Dreiser, who retained the original family name, are soliciting funds among the scattered clan with which to benefit the Vigo County Historical Society's program to preserve the Dresser birthplace in Terre Haute.

Although primarily aimed at honoring Paul Dresser, the famous songwriter of Indiana's state tune, "On the Banks of the Wabash," the planned memorial will also pay tribute to his brother, Theodore, author of, "An American Tragedy" and many other well-known literary works.

In line with the society's program to raise some \$5,000 or more with which to move the dwelling located at 318 South Second street to a site in Fairbanks Park where it will be restored, women of the Dreiser or Dresser family are spurring a collection of funds to contribute to the local cause.

Dr. Vera Dreiser, daughter of the late Ed Dreiser, brother of Paul and Theodore, who uses her family name professionally, and her daughter, Miss Sheri Scott, have announced some \$400 pledged to heirs of the famous brothers.

Dr. Dreiser, a New York City psychiatrist and known to her friends as Mrs. Alfred E. Scott, and Sheri, who is pursuing the family talent for acting and singing, expected to visit Terre Haute within the next eight to 10 days, en route back to New York from a California theatrical engagement.

This past weekend, however, Dr. Dreiser notified Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the local Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, that the appearance would have to be postponed.

They had been hurriedly called back from California to confer with the Miss America Pageant Committee, who have selected Sheri as one of the five finalists from which the Miss New York City entry will be chosen.

The Miss America title will be finally determined about September, according to John K. Lamb, executive director of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, and Richard Tuttle, staff assistant, who had been collaborating with Mrs. Clark for the expected appearance here of Dr. Dreiser and her daughter.

While expressing her regret at not being able to visit the city again as soon as had been anticipated, Dr. Dreiser disclosed the pledge by heirs through the special nation-wide Dreiser Committee.

Being conducted by The Library division of the University of Pennsylvania, the Dreiser heirs collection committee is headed by Neda M. Westlake,

curator of the university's rare book collection.

Their specific interest as a university is the works of Theodore, society officials noted. A special cash presentation of the pledged amounts is expected to be made soon.

Among the latest local contributions received is the sum of \$19.55 donated by members of the Good Cheer Club for the Blind. A message accompanying the donation expressed the members desire that "others may see although we cannot."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Clark reported the latest list of contributors, the amounts bringing the total collected to date to \$2,461.03:

Paul C. Frizz	\$ 5
A. W. Lindholm	1
Mrs. G. W. Gambill	10
Dr. Rutherford B. Porter	10
James H. Mason	1
V. L. Tatlock	5
Eleanor Forsythe	1
Larry and Mary (Pound) Snow	10
Mrs. Hugh C. Brook	1

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**DRESSER MEMORIAL  
FUND HITS \$2,500**

*July 20, 1961*  
A little more than half of the \$5,000 needed to finance the relocation and restoration of the Paul Dresser birthplace has been received from voluntary donors to the project, Mrs. Dorothy Clark reports.

Speaking before members of high Twelve Club yesterday, she pointed out the value of the place, if restored, as a tourist attraction and as a visual aid for students of history. She said it is to be hoped that the fund-raising project is successful for failure would tend to substantiate charges of community apathy in her opinion.

Harry Rowe sang two numbers written by Dresser as another program feature.

A collection made at the club luncheon netted \$22 for the drive.

Other contributions received yesterday included:

Terre Haute Clearing House, \$50; John J. Cleary Jr., \$5; Marvin M. Foulke, \$5, and William E. Otte, \$5. Contributions may be sent to the Drive to Save the Paul Dresser Home at Box 1041, Terre Haute.

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## Dresser Memorial Support Urged

*Star Gal 20 1961*  
Charges of community apathy would be substantiated by the failure of the drive to preserve the Paul Dresser home, the drive's chairman said yesterday.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark made the statement in a talk during the luncheon meeting of the High Twelve Club yesterday at the Terre Haute House. She reported on the progress of the drive, noting that contributions had reached \$2,572, or slightly more than one-half of the \$5,000 sought.

She stressed the desirability of preserving the home as a tourist attraction and said it would be helpful to students as "a vis-

ual example on how our ancestors lived a few generations ago."

A student can learn more by actually visiting an historic place, she said, than by reading several history books.

Two of Dresser's most popular songs, "On the Banks of the Wabash," and "My Gal Sal," were sung during the meeting by Harry Rowe.

A drive contribution of \$22 was made by the club from a collection taken during the meeting.

Other contributions received yesterday included:

Terre Haute Clearing House, \$50; John J. Cleary Jr., \$5; Marvin M. Foulke, \$5, and William E. Otte, \$5. Contributions may be sent to the Drive to Save the Paul Dresser Home at Box 1041, Terre Haute.

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# Quartet to Sing Dresser Hits To Aid Memorial Fund Effort

Isab July 26-1961

By EULETA SLOVER

The Terre Haute Civitan Club Thursday morning will begin a concerted effort to assist the Paul Dresser Memorial Fund with completion of plans for their major annual fund-raising event, a radio auction. They hope to raise \$2,000 to contribute to the fund.

During their Thursday morning breakfast session in Hotel Deming's Crystal Room, the Civitans will introduce a quartet from their membership who will promote the movement by vocalizing such Dresser standards as "On the Banks of the Wabash" and "My Gal Sal."

The group, composed of Harold Whaley, Kenny Roman, Jack Beeson and Harry Rowe, will seek guest appearances before local organizations and various functions to emphasize the Dresser Memorial endeavor and auction set for the evenings of Aug. 24, 27, 28 and 31.

It will be conducted over a two-hour period each evening from the broadcasting facilities of WTHI.

## Program Procedure.

According to the program procedure explained by Whaley, Civitan president, articles, inert and live, donated by Terre Haute and Vigo County business firms will be described over the air waves and offered for sale to the highest telephone bidder.

In 1959, the Civitan auction raised some \$1,000 for the local Boy Scout program. It was not held in 1960 but Whaley advised that "we now plan to make it an annual affair with the proceeds to benefit some worthy community project or charity."

The committees announced by President Whaley are headed by George Allen and Max Baker as chairman and co-chairman of the general planning with Calvin Dewey and Emory Swander assisting.

Other committees are: Merchants division — Rev. Albert Mitchell, chairman, and William King and Jerry Isaacs; publicity — Paul Benning Sr., chairman, and Edward Black and Cecil C. Davis; finance — William Wright, chairman, and William King and Robert W. Blair, and secretary of auction sales — Don Allen, chairman, and David L. Koenig and David C. Clark.

## Fund to Date.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Vigo County Historical Society's Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, noted that \$2,696.05 has been received to date toward the \$5,000-\$6,000 needed to move the Dresser homeplace from 313 South Second street to a permanent memorial site in Fairbanks Park.

It is currently located in the Southwest Area Project boundaries and must be moved in the clearance project. The city, under the Urban Renewal Program, is purchasing it from the present owner and has agreed to sell it to the Society for a token price of \$1, providing it is moved from the site.

A 50-year lease on a park site in the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets has been granted the Society by the park board and the anticipated sum will be used to move the house to the location and set it on a permanent foundation.

Society officials noted that persons wishing to contribute to the fund may address their letters to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P.O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

The latest list of contributors released by Mrs. Clark are as follows:

Sidney Levin	\$10.00
O. Allen	5.00
Mr. Anonymous	1.00
Curry Homemakers Club	
Farmersburg	6.00
Gladys M. Rohrig	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Horton	10.00
Donald W. Reely	10.00
Indiana State Bank	10.00
John L. and Marie Thompson	10.00
Wendell K. Brown, Dana	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. Max Bishop, Dana	2.00
Eugene and Wanda Artis	5.00
R. E. Smith RR 6	25.00
Mrs. Clara Graham Hollinger, Chapman, Kans.	10.00
Dr. Joseph Kunkler	25.00
Dr. James V. Richart	3.00
Dr. L. Mason Lyons	10.00
Leland Anderson, Carlisle	1.00
Robert R. Brown	2.00

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The latest list of contributors	
Robert Mardis	\$ 3.00
Margaret Haupt	1.00
Meadows School "Penny March"	32.50
Lioness Club	10.00
Mrs. Carl Graham	15.00
Miss Judith Hughes, Hammond, Ind.	3.00
Mrs. Arthur Jonas, Center Point, Ind.	5.00
Miss Mable Anstead	5.00
Fowler Chapter D. A. R., Fowler, Ind.	5.00
Terre Haute B. and P. W. Club	100.00
John K. Lamb	2.00
William V. Cahill	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Welby Frantz	10.00
Margaret Ryan	5.00
W. E. Lutz	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Mosele, Sigma Alpha Iota, Terre Haute	5.00
Alumnae Chapter (National Music Fraternity)	25.00
Marie Workman	1.00
Hazel Herb	1.00
Mary Hodgers	1.00
Dorothy Courtney	1.00
Katie Lowdermilk	1.00
Catherine M. Fee	1.00
Hilda Taylor	1.00
Pensy Hoffman	1.00
Marie Bronnert	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. C. Huston Isaacs	5.00
Mrs. John Q. Adams, Columbia City, Ind.	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. McCullough	5.00
Fred W. Blower	5.00
Mississinewa Chapter D. A. R., Portland, Ind.	5.00
Miss Frances C. Heubel	2.00
Terre Haute Poets' Study Club	10.00
Dr. and Mrs. Wayne A. Crockett	5.00
Ruth Buck	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rector	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Buel T. Wampler	5.00
Mignon Shaffer	5.00
Mildred B. Hollis	1.00
General de Lafayette Chapter D. A. R., Lafayette, Ind.	11.00
Louise Hoskins, Sullivan, Ind.	1.00
Mrs. Alfred J. Woolford	2.00
Dr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Mankin	10.00
Quibache Chapter D. A. R., Attica, Ind.	5.00
Friend of Terre Haute	1.00
Mrs. J. A. Hankins, Sullivan, Ind.	10.00
John Wallace Chapter D. A. R., Bedford, Ind.	12.25

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## Report Progress On Paul Dresser Birthplace Fund

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Vigo County Historical Society's Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation committee, reported last night that the memorial fund had passed the \$2,700 mark.

It has been estimated that \$5,000 to \$6,000 will be needed to move the Dresser homeplace from 318 South Second Street to a permanent site in Fairbanks Park. The Dresser birthplace is located in the Southwest Area Project of the city's Urban Renewal Program and must be moved or razed.

A 50-year lease on a site in the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets has been granted the historical society by the park board. The estimated sum will be used to remove the house and to restore it on a permanent foundation.

Mrs. Clark said that persons wishing to contribute to the fund may address their donations to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

A list of the latest contributors is as follows:

Dr. L. M. Mason	\$ 5.00
Mrs. Lilla M. Richmond	5.00
Wendell K. Brown, Dana	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. Max Bishop, Dana	2.00
Eugene and Wanda Artis	5.00
R. E. Smith, R. R. 6	25.00
Mrs. Clara Graham Hollinger, Chapman, Kan.	10.00
Dr. Joseph Kunkler	25.00
Dr. James V. Richart	3.00
Dr. L. Mason Lyons	10.00
Leland Anderson, Carlisle	1.00
Robert R. Brown	2.00

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# Fund to Save Dresser Home Totals \$2,800

*trib Aug 7-1961*

Officials of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Commission have announced that more than \$2,800 received to date toward the \$5,000-\$6,000 needed to move the Dresser home from 318 South Second street to a permanent memorial site in Fairbanks Park.

The City Department of Redevelopment reports 28 properties owners have already given options on a total of 34 properties located in the Southwest Area Project limits preparatory to their being razed or removed in the city's slum clearance movement.

The Dresser home place is located in this clearance area. However, the city has agreed to sell it to the Vigo County Historical Society for a token price of \$1 providing it be removed from the premises. They have also granted the Society a 50-year rent-free lease on the park site at First and Farrington streets.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Society's committee, noted that interested persons may still mail their contributions to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

The latest list of contributors was defined as follows:

Dr. L. M. Mason	\$ 5.00
Mrs. Lilla M. Richmond	5.00
Deneta F. Sankey	5.00
Dr. Clyde W. Jett, Seelyville	10.00
Terre Haute Savings Bank	10.00
Wm. V. and Marie C. Cahill	10.00
Mrs. Elmer T. Smith, Brentwood, Mo.	1.00
Sheriff Herbert O. Beasley	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Berton	2.00
Dr. W. L. Loewenstein	3.00
Thorpe L. Wolford, Louisville, Ky.	15.00
P. D. Silliman	5.00
Dr. E. J. Willis	5.00
Library cash contribution box	3.00
Hermine M. Cox	10.00

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**Paul Dresser Fund**  
*Star Aug 7 1961*  
**Reports Receipts**

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Vigo County Historical Society's Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, reported yesterday that the memorial fund had surpassed the \$2,800 mark. Some \$5,000 to \$6,000 is needed to move the Dresser birthplace from 318 South Second Street to a permanent memorial site in Fairbanks Park.

The Dresser dwelling is located in the Southwest Area Project limits of the city's redevelopment program and must be moved to clear the land for the urban renewal progress. The city's Department of Redevelopment reported over the weekend that 28 property owners have already given options on a total of 34 properties in the southwest area.

Mrs. Clark said that persons wishing to contribute to the program were invited to mail their donations to: Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind.

The latest list of contributors reads as follows:

Deneta F. Sankey .....	\$ 5.00
Dr. Clyde W. Jett, Seelyville .....	10.00
Terre Haute Savings Bank .....	10.00
Wm. V. and Marie C. Cahill .....	10.00
Mrs. Elmer T. Smith, Brentwood, Mo. ....	1.00
Sheriff Herbert O. Beasley .....	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Berton ..	2.00
Dr. W. L. Loewenstein .....	3.00
Thorp L. Wolford, Louisville, Ky. ....	15.00
P. D. Silliman .....	5.00
Dr. E. J. Willis .....	5.00
Library cash contribution box ..	3.00
Hermine M. Cox .....	10.00

## Dresser Home Funds Mount

*Int Aug 17-1961*

Contributions continue to arrive daily for the purpose of saving Paul Dresser's home site and moving it to a new permanent location in Pairbanks Park.

Many contributions have been received from out of town, according to Dorothy Clark, chairman of the committee for the restoration of the home.

The reason for many of the contributions stems from the fact that letters explaining the plans of the committee have been sent to members of the Indiana Historical Society. "They have responded wonderfully," says Mrs. Clark.

One of the largest individual contributions of late came from Haven Gillespie, who is composer from Cincinnati.

Dean Snyder of Los Angeles, Calif., has contributed and sent along eight copies of sheet music of songs written by Dresser.

### List of contributors:

Past Presidents of Home Demonstration Clubs	\$5.00
State Representative Birch E. Bayh Jr.	5.00
Mrs. Bess Parnell, Sullivan, Ind.	2.00
A Friend	5.00
Sam DeVincenzo, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. George Mansholt	5.00
Haven Gillespie, Cincinnati, Ohio	50.00
Bricklayers Masons, Tilesetters, Marblesetters and Terrazzo Workers, Local Union No. 5 of Indiana	10.00
G. D. McDonald, New York City	2.00
Mrs. Lois Beauchamp	5.00
Local Union No. 1041—United Papermakers & Paperworkers	10.00
Rev. Jean S. Milner, Indianapolis, Ind.	10.00
Miss Ethel M. Ray	3.00
Janetta Littell, Columbus, Ind.	3.00
Robert B. McHolme, Indianapolis, Ind.	1.00
David W. Little, Bloomington, Ind.	5.00
Dan Pyle, South Bend, Ind.	5.00
Mrs. Harold Causey, Indianapolis, Ind.	2.00
Mrs. W. E. Dittrich, Portage, Ind.	1.00
Mrs. Elizabeth Miller Hack, Indianapolis, Ind.	25.00
Eleanor M. Hack, Indianapolis, Ind.	10.00
Mrs. Leo Schulteis, Vincennes, Ind.	2.00
Jolly Birthday Club, West Terre Haute, Ind.	10.00
Miss Mildred Campbell, Indianapolis, Ind.	5.00
Mrs. Michael J. Clare	5.00
Jack H. Mankin	10.00

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# Gift Swells Fund On Dresser Home

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 1961

By EULETA SLOVER

A \$200 check from a descendant of Paul Dresser has been received by the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee and an authentic cavalry sword used in the Civil War has been contributed for a Civitan Club radio auction which will begin Thursday evening.

The announcement was made Tuesday by Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Vigo County Historical Society's PDBP Committee, dedicated to raising some \$5,000 with which to move the Dresser home from 318 South Second street to a permanent site in Fairbanks Park.

Mrs. Clark noted that latest contributions have swelled the fund to \$3,384, the \$200 check from G. V. Nelson of Long Island, N. Y., being the group's largest single donation. He advised that receipt of his gift had been delayed by a European vacation trip.

However, close behind was a \$100 check from International Laborers' Union as additional gifts continue to be received at the committee's local post office box (1041).

In his accompanying letter, Nelson did not define his line of descendency from Dressers, or Dreiser, as the family name originally was recorded and under which surname Paul's famous novelist brother, Theodore, was known.

The University of Pennsylvania Library, which has established a memorial collection of Theodore's writings, was similarly advised of the heir's contribution to the local memorial.

## Support Project.

The university and its library secretary of the Theodore Dreiser Committee, has thrown their whole-hearted support behind the local fund raising project. They assumed the task of alerting all heirs of the famous brothers of the planned memorial to be situated in the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets.

The Civitan Club auction will be held the evenings of Aug. 24, 27, 28 and 31 in the studios of Radio Station WTHI. Articles contributed by Terre Haute and Vigo County businesses, industries, organizations and individuals will be offered for sale to the highest telephone bidder.

Mrs. Clark explained that the name of the cavalry sword donor "prefers to remain anonymous. However, the lucky bidder will receive full particulars of its original owner and authenticity" city.

The very valuable relic, she advised, was carried into battle in "The War Between the States" by a Grand Army of the Republic cavalry officer from the Wabash Valley area. It reportedly is inscribed with dates and other pertinent information.

Several other antiques and relics of Vigo County and Wabash Valley history are being solicited from local dealers, she noted, and are expected to add great interest in the auction.

Annually, the Civitan Club selects a worthwhile local project to name as the beneficiary of its number one fund-raising endeavor.

All proceeds this year will benefit the Dresser Memorial Fund which will cover the cost of moving the dwelling to the new site and situating it on a block foundation.

The latest list of contributions was described as follows:

Mrs. Mable B. McKinney, Indianapolis	\$ 3
Miss Lucille Stewart, Indianapolis	5
Michael Sweeney (Vigo County Commissioner)	5
Mrs. Irene Taggart Young, Leland, Mich.	25
International Laborers' Union	100
Miss Clara L. Johannings, Indianapolis	1
Claude E. Reese (Vigo County Surveyor)	5
John L. H. Fuller, Indianapolis	10
Miss Eva Jane Lewis, Indianapolis	2
G. V. Nelson (Dresser-Dreiser heir), Baldwin, Long Island, N. Y.	200
Jerry Hankins, Indianapolis	1
Dr. John E. Stoner, Indiana University, Bloomington	2
Fred Bauer (Vigo County Assessor)	5
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Smith	2



OVER \$3,000 MARK—Virgil Morris, representative of the Common Laborers' Union, presents Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the committee to save Paul Dresser's home, with a check for \$100 that put the fund over the \$3,000 mark. The committee is trying to solicit \$5,000 for the project.

*Tuesday Aug. 23, 1961*

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AT PAUL DRESSER'S BIRTHPLACE, 318 Harding avenue, the songwriter's niece, Dr. Vera Dreiser, left, and her daughter, Miss Sheri Scott took photographs Thursday to be used in Dr. Dreiser's forthcoming book about the three brothers, Paul, Theodore and Ed. The two women visited Terre Haute en route to California where they will make their home.

## Dr. Dreiser Pays Visit to Old Residence

*Terre Haute* Aug 31 - 1961

Dr. Vera Dreiser, niece of Terre Haute's late, great Paul Dresser stopped here Thursday en route to California to add her personal contribution to the growing fund being raised to restore Dresser's birthplace and move it to Fairbanks Park.

A writer and a native of New York City, Dr. Dreiser, with her daughter, Miss Sheri Scott, is moving to Hollywood where Miss Scott is launching a career in motion pictures and television.

Their first stop after arriving was the Dresser home at 318 Harding avenue where they were photographed and spent some time taking photographs themselves. After registering at the Albert Pick Motel, they toured the city and at 4 o'clock visited the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley.

The women were scheduled to appear on a television show late in the afternoon and were to be entertained at dinner by Mrs. Robert I. Clark, local historian who initiated the fund-raising project.

### Pleased With Progress.

Dr. Dreiser appeared pleased with the progress of the project commenting: "It sounds as if it finally is really moving. I recall some correspondence I had with local people some eight or 10 years ago concerning such an idea. And now it seems a reality."

And to illustrate her own interest, she presented a \$200 check to the fund bringing the total amount to \$3,750.

Dr. Dreiser said she had written to Dresser's heirs who still are receiving royalties from his songs to apprise them of the project and give them the opportunity to make contributions.

Only one person responded, she said.

Currently Dr. Dreiser is writing a book about the three Dresser brothers—Theodore Dreiser, Paul Dresser (he changed the spelling) and her father, Ed Dreiser.

"It has taken a tremendous amount of research," the author said Thursday, "but certainly it is a labor of love." The book is half finished at this point.

In Hollywood she expects to get a lot of valuable information about the men, Paul in particular, in the early 90's from Louise Dresser, a former singer and movie actress, who was a protege of Paul Dresser and helped make many of his songs famous. At 83, she still is a sparkling personality, Dr. Dreiser said, and still beautiful.

Right now the two New Yorkers are planning a year's residence in California and "if we like it, we'll settle there."

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## Niece of Dresser On Visit Thursday

*Dear Aug 30-1966*  
A visit by a niece of Paul Dresser and a preliminary report on the Civitan Radio Auction are expected to make Thursday a memorable day in the drive to preserve the birthplace of the Hoosier composer.

Dr. Vera Dreiser of New York City (Mrs. Vera Scott) is expected to visit the Dresser home while en route to California. Her visit will be a highlight of the current campaign to raise \$5,000 to move the home from the urban renewal area to a permanent location in Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive.

In a 7 o'clock meeting Thursday morning at Hotel Deming, Civitan President Harold Whaly and project co-chairmen, George W. Allen and Max Baker, will review the results to date and draw plans for the final auction, to be broadcast Thursday evening from 8 to 10 o'clock on WTHI.

The fund has now reached \$3,550, or only \$1,450 short of the goal. The largest recent contribution was \$100 from the Terre Haute Altrusa Club.

A list of recent contributions follows:

William E. Bradbury (in memory of his mother, Jennie Kelly Bradbury), Robinson, Ill.	\$ 5.00
Mrs. Raymond V. Smith, Indianapolis	5.00
George V. Falkenberg, Indianapolis	5.00
Mrs. Patricia Hoggatt	1.00
Altrusa Club of Terre Haute	100.00
L. G. Brock, Indianapolis	2.00
John E. Stout	2.00
Helen Wood	5.00
Edward D. James, architect, Indianapolis	10.00
Dale H. Nees, Brazil	5.00
Minnie Sneedeker	1.00
A. Leroy Lewzader, Vigo County Auditor	5.00
Mrs. Earl Martin, Indianapolis	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Jones	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Ewing H. Miller	10.00

Contributions may be sent to the Paul Dresser Memorial Fund, Post Office Box 1041, Terre Haute.

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## Club Projects Add \$950 to Dresser Fund

T. 10-3-61

Indications are now that the birthplace of songwriter Paul Dresser on South Second street can be moved to Fairbanks Park and rehabilitated this fall since funds for the project have nearly reached the needed \$5,000.

Contributions have come in from individuals and organizations all over the county and other parts of the country, according to Mrs. Dorothy Clark of the Vigo County Historical Society which has sponsored the fund-raising project.

This Thursday morning at its regular breakfast meeting at Hotel Deming, Civitan Club will add \$950 to the fund, \$126.50 raised by the club's quartet at various entertainment engagements and \$823.50 by a radio auction the Civitans staged.

Other recent gifts include: J. B. Cox, Marshall, Ill., \$5; Mr. and Mrs. James Brummett, \$2; Mr. and Mrs. William G. Wert, \$5; Bob Brown, Prairie Creek, \$2; Mrs. Helen Adams, \$5; Judge Albert R. Owens, \$5; Friendship Class, Central Christian Church, \$5; Peppy Peppers 4-H Club, St. Bernice, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Orville E. Miller, St. Bernice, \$2; Terre Haute Typographical Union No. 76, \$25.

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## Dresser Campaign \$140.50 From Goal

*5 10 - 25 - 61*  
The Paul Dresser birthplace preservation committee is within \$140.50 of its \$5,000 goal for the removal of the Paul Dresser birthplace to a permanent site in Fairbanks Park, it was announced yesterday by Mrs. Robert I. Clark, chairman of the committee.

The fund is dedicated to the preservation of the house at 318 South Second Street which was the birthplace of Paul Dresser and his brother Ed, youngest of the family of 13 children.

Contributions announced yesterday by Mrs. Clark are:

Morton A. Lewis .....	\$ 5.00
Miss Jessie E. Wolford .....	25.00
Sandcut Firemen's Auxiliary .....	5.00
Davis Park School P.-T. A. ....	10.00
William E. Fegley .....	1.00
Honey Creek Home Ec Club .....	5.00
Collection Box at Library .....	2.50

While the goal has not been reached, it is so near that Mrs. Clark was most optimistic yesterday. The Post Office box of the committee has been discontinued as of the present, she said, but contributions may be sent to her at her home, 2032 North Eighth Street.

Unless the moving is started by Thanksgiving, she continued, moving engineers have told the committee that it would be unwise to move after that because the ground freezes to different depths in spots. In the event moving is not started by Thanksgiving, she added, it will be necessary to wait until Spring to establish the home as a memorial in Fairbanks Park.

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# Paul Dresser Memorial Fund Is Nearing Goal

*Trib-Star 10-29-61*

The Paul Dresser Home fund reached the \$4,943.45 mark Saturday night—still \$56.55 short of the \$5,000 goal.

Saturday's contributions, as announced by Mrs. Dorothy Clark, totaled \$17, including \$10 from John R. Burke, \$5 from Mr. and Mrs. G. C. McDaniel, and \$1 each from Miss Kathy Meeks and Miss Lorrie Meeks.

A total of \$5,000 is needed to move the former Dresser home at 318 South Second street to a permanent site in Fairbanks Park.

The committee is confident the goal will be reached early this week since it was reduced in half on Friday and Saturday, when \$140 was still needed.

The two switchboard operators at the Tribune-Star collected \$50.75 on Thursday and Friday. In addition, \$14.17 was received from the Action Committee of Terre Haute and \$2 from Mr. and Mrs. Rex Johnson of North Terre Haute.

In urging that donations continue to flow in so that the memorial can be set up for the Terre Haute native, Mrs. Clark came up with this quote by Laurence Vail Coleman:

"Some buildings are distinguished from the moment they are finished, and the future may destroy them only at great loss. Some buildings achieve importance by withstanding the assaults of time and so gaining values that they did not have while in company with many of their kind. Other buildings have greatness thrust upon them by acts of man that create hallowed association . . . These are part of our inheritance from . . . centuries past, and they come down the years to us bearing messages. To recognize and understand such buildings is our birthright, and to protect them is our duty. It can be our achievement, having added to the inheritance, to pass it on."

Donations can be sent to the Paul Dresser Memorial Fund, Post office Box 1041, Terre Haute.

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## Dresser Campaign *Star 10-27-61* Fund Nears Goal

Largely through the efforts of two switchboard operators at the Tribune - Star Publishing Company, the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee last night reported it is within \$73.55 of its \$5,000 goal. The funds are to be used to move the former Dresser home at 318 South Second Street to a permanent site in Fairbanks Park.

Mrs. Frances Hamby and Mrs. Mildred Weisbach were the two who solicited for the fund when it was announced it was a little more than \$140 short of the goal. They raised \$50.75 in small donations from workers throughout the publishing company's plant.

In addition, according to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the fund committee, a gift of \$14.17 was received from the Action Committee of Terre Haute and \$2 were given by Mr. and Mrs. Rex Johnson of North Terre Haute.

The fund now has \$4,926.45 in it, Mrs. Clark said. She was almost effusive in her commendation of the two workers who conceived the idea of solicitation when it was announced that only a little more than \$140 was needed for the \$5,000. They raised more than one-third of the needed amount.

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## Dresser Memorial *Star 11-7-61* Fund Over Goal

A "penny march" sponsored by the fourth grade class of Mrs. Norma Davies at Collett School put the Paul Dresser birthplace preservation fund over the top of its \$5,000 goal, it was announced yesterday. The \$26.50 collected in the march took the fund to \$5,007.95.

Since that time, \$11 more dollars have been given to the fund, making it now stand at \$5,018.95.

Because of legal technicalities, according to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, it will not be possible to start the moving of the property from 318 South Second Street to the permanent spot in Fairbanks Park until Spring.

However, she added, contributions still are being received. They will aid in restoring the house after the move, she pointed out. Gifts reported by Mrs. Clark are:

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. McDaniel	\$ 5.00
Miss Kathy Meeks	1.00
Miss Lorrie Meeks	1.00
John R. Burke	10.00
Theodore J. Anthony, New Lebanon	3.00
George O. Hall	5.00
Robert Gatewood, Chicago	10.00
Inez M. Henry	5.00
Mrs. Carl D. Fischer	10.00
Anonymous	5.00
Collett School "PENNY MARCH"	26.50
"In memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Julian Ury"	1.00
Miss Mary Ruth Donovan	2.50
Miss Bertha Donovan	2.50
Miss Marjorie M. Tilley	2.50
Miss Gladys M. Tilley	2.50

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**DRESSER MEMORIAL  
SITE LEASE FILED**

*5 Nov 30 1961*  
A 50-year lease agreement for location of the Paul Dresser birthplace home in Fairbanks Park was filed yesterday with the county recorder's office.

The agreement is between the Vigo County Historical Society and the Terre Haute Board of Park Commissioners. Officers of each signed the lease.

The plot stipulated in the lease is 200 square feet at the northwest corner of First and Fanning streets.

**DRESSER MEMORIAL  
LEASE REGISTERED**

*NET NOV 29 1961*  
A lease agreement between the Terre Haute Park Board and the Vigo County Historical Society granting the latter a 50-year lease on an area located in Fairbanks Park as a permanent site for the Paul Dresser home was filed with County Recorder Ralph Baxter Wednesday.

Prepared by Dorothy Clark, the lease agreement was signed by officers of the society as well as officers of the park board. An area comprising 200 square feet was set aside in the park for the Dresser Memorial.

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## Act to Remove Dresser Home To New Site

T-5-25-62

The first approval for removal of any buildings from the Southwest Project Area was contained in a resolution passed by the City Department of Redevelopment Thursday evening and pertains to relocation of the Paul Dresser birthplace to a permanent memorial site in Fairbanks Park.

Emanuel Gorland, executive director of the department, said the approval is a necessary legal step toward revision of the city's Urban Renewal Plans, permitting the removal of the house as soon as the option is secured from the present owner.

He noted that revision of the plans must now go to the federal office in Chicago for approval. However, he said, the department elected to proceed on the preliminary matter in an effort to expedite the Dresser Memorial program, sponsored by the Vigo County Historical Society.

According to the official, it is hoped that the option on the 100-year-old dwelling may be secured shortly without legal condemnation proceedings. As soon as the option is secured, legal advertising for the sale may be published and the property sold to the Historical Society for the token sum of \$1, a transaction which probably will require only a few weeks, he explained.

The house is presently located at 318 South Second street in the clearance area of the Southwest Project Area. Funds have already been contributed and the contract let for its removal to the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets on the Wabash River park site.

Other matters contained in the Thursday evening May session of the Redevelopment Department Commissioners paved the way for an engineering survey of sidewalk, curbing and street improvement needs in the rehabilitation sector, located from Third to Fifth street between Poplar and Hulman streets.

Also approved under the city's urban renewal program was a \$1,900 expenditure for project improvement engineering services with all urban renewal funds to be used to pay for any municipal improvements made in the rehabilitation sector.

Paul O'Dea, real estate specialist, reported 158 property owners, only two away from

being 50 per cent of the owners, have been paid to date. The department now owns 220 parcels of land.

Willard Richey, rehabilitation specialist, reported that homeowners in the rehabilitation sector have spent \$8,000 for improvements during May, making the total improvement expenditure \$77,000 to date. He added that three homes have been approved this month and that he made 58 call-back inspections.

A joint report by Robert Payne and Robert Burgbacher, both relocation specialists, informed the group that 74 families have been relocated, but 66 families remain on the work load. Of the 66 families, the report noted, 20 are problem cases and 16 others have commitments. The pair made 84 inspections of homes and reported an expenditure of \$1,464.13 during May for family moving expenses.

Commissioners participating were Morris Landsbaum, president; John Curry, Herbert Patterson and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Herbert F. Winterhalter.

# Sign to Mark Location of Dresser Home

T 6-15-62  
By EULETA SLOVER

A large sign designating the future site of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Memorial was erected in the southeast edge of Fairbanks Park Friday morning and officials say that they hope to complete the acquisition of the more than 100-year-old property within a few days.

Members of the sponsoring Vigo County Historical Society with officials of the Reyher Sign Service and Indiana Wrecking Company witnessed installation of the sign in a 10 o'clock ceremony on the memorial site.

The 4 feet by 8 feet sign, bearing the legend "The Future Site of the Paul Dresser Home—Vigo County Historical Society" in black lettering on a white ground, was donated and painted by Frank W. Reyher, president of the 33 Wabash avenue sign company.

The erecting service was contributed by Ralph Learnard, president of Indiana Wrecking and a member of the Society's Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee.

## Rush Action On Option.

Paul O'Dea of the City Department of Redevelopment said he hopes "to have an option from the owner within the next few days."

The house is located at 318 South Second street in the clearance area of the Southwest Project Area and must be moved from the location in accordance with the city's Urban Renewal Program.

Elmer Buchta, an Ottwell, Ind., moving contractor, will move the two-story brick dwelling "intact or it won't cost you a cent," Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the preservation committee, quoted Buckta's warranty assurance.

Buchta has a reputation for successfully moving antiquated buildings and objects, having accomplished the transfer of a Parke County covered bridge to a burned-out covered bridge site there last year.



**SIGN OF COMING ATTRACTION**—Officials of the Vigo County Historical Society, the City Board of Park Commissions and Park Department companies, involved in the forthcoming transfer of the Paul Dresser home to Fairbanks Park, witnessed the installation of this memorial marker sign Friday morning. From left, they are Park Commissioner Sid Levin, Park Superintendent Charles Britton, Warren Brewer Sr. and Loring Halberstadt of the Historical Society, Ralph Learnard of the Society's Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, City Controller Ray Thomas, Commissioner Robert Bennett, committee chairman Mrs. Dorothy Clark and Elmer Buchta, the moving contractor.

Photo by Charles.

## Funds Were Subscribed.

Funds to facilitate the building transfer to the park property on the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets has already been received from individuals, organizations and civic groups interested in making the Dresser Memorial a permanent feature among local historical points of interest.

A new foundation to receive the house, paint and wallpaper of the era in which it was built by the Dresser family, period furniture and many other articles have already been offered as donations toward the full restoration of the home.

The Redevelopment Department has agreed to sell the house to the Historical Society for the token sum of \$1, as soon as they acquire it, with the stipulation that it be moved from the South Second street location immediately.

The City Park Department has granted the Society a lifetime rent-free lease on the park location which overlooks Dresser Drive and the Wabash River which the world-famous Terre Hautean immortalized in song.

Last year, the Indiana Legislature moved to make "On the Banks of the Wabash" the official state song and a section of U. S. Highway 41 through the State and Vigo County was designated and appropriately posted the "Paul Dresser Memorial Highway."

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# Dresser Memorial Gets Union Lift

PAUL DRESSER

T. H. Trib. 3/15/63

By EULETA SLOVER  
TURNER

Work has been resumed on the Paul Dresser Birthplace Memorial, a Terre Haute Labor Union and some equally interested firms and individuals having risen to the task of forwarding the community historical project.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the sponsoring Vigo County Historical Society's Committee for the Preservation of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Memorial, noted Friday that "workmen of Terre Haute Local 197 of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America were on hand two days and were back Saturday."

John McDaniels, business agent and financial secretary of the Local, said president Newton V. Giles and his fellow Union members voted last week to donate their services for all painting and decorating work necessary to restore the more-than-100-year-old two-story brick dwelling.

"Labor has always been vitally interested in promoting community projects that involve the good of the entire community and area," McDaniels advised, noting that "the membership was quick to vote donation of its services to the Dresser Memorial."

#### Recommended By Board.

The vote was brought about through the recommendation of the Union executive board which, in addition to Giles and McDaniels, is composed of vice president Otis White, secretary Frank Cuvelier and trustees Bernard Dowdell, Lawrence Shelton and Lester Strainer.

Painters Jesse Richey, Howard Hayhurst and Clyde Beal applied prime coats Thursday and Friday and will be followed by a team some eight or 10 Union members Saturday adding the first permanent paint application.

"It will take several weekends to complete the total painting and decorating job," McDaniels estimated, "but our men have volunteered their services each Saturday until the overall work is completed."

He reflected that the Dresser contribution is just one of many such community efforts the Terre Haute Local, one of the oldest in the country and including affiliated members in Brazil, Clinton and Marshall and Paris, Ill., has aided. Some of them were enumerated as painting of the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds grandstand and buildings, the Schulte High School football field bleachers, the Newman's Center at Indiana State College and the Volunteers of America quarters.

Mrs. Clark expressed the Historical Society's deep appreciation to the Labor Union for getting the Dresser Memorial restoration "under way again." It is hoped to have the building restored to its original status of habitation by April 23, 1964, the 107th anniversary of Dresser's birth in the memorial house.

#### Overlooks Dresser Drive.

The dwelling was moved from its original location, 318 South Second street, to the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets in Fairbanks Park. It is now situated overlooking Dresser Drive and the Wabash River, subject of Dresser's immortal "On The Banks of the Wabash" which has been named Indiana's official song by an Act of the General Assembly.

Other recent contributions to activation of the Dresser Home restoration include sanding blocks donated to the Painters' Union workers by the Armstrong-Walker Lumber Co. and all paint for entire restoration job by the Smith-Alsop Paint and Varnish Company.

A unique feature of the restoration process, as reported by Mrs. Clark, is duplication of the front porch posts by C. G. Mayrose and Co.

"George Mayrose is an artisan in millwork production and this type of porch post is no longer used. He came over when the house was moved and offered to do a special job for us without cost. His efforts will make the restoration that much more authentic," she observed, reminding that "as near a restoration to the Dresser period as possible is our aim."

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MRS. VIOLET MINER, collector of antiques and operator of the Stage Coach Ranch Antique Shop in West Terre Haute, has invited Society officials "to search her wares for authentic period shutters which she has offered to donate to the project." Mrs. Clark added.

#### Unique Honor in History.

The local Society and its Indiana counterpart are particularly proud of the local movement "since it will be the first memorial ever established in the state in tribute to an ordinary citizen." "It will make Terre Haute outstanding and unique in the historical field," according to the Society official.

The next area of improvement will include duplication and installation of windows, plastering the inside, finishing floors, adding wallpaper and installing indirect lighting.

There will be no visable electric lighting in the house, Mrs. Clark explained, kerosene lamps of the Dresser period to be stationed throughout the rooms although not lighted except for special occasions.

Restoration planning calls for electrical wiring to be brought into the house under the flooring with soft, indirect lighting to illuminate the rooms from places of concealment.

In addition to individual and organizational donations of time, service and materials, Mrs. Clark advised that financial gifts and letters continue to be received from persons throughout the Vigo County area, Wabash Valley, state and nation.

#### From Banks of Hudson.

A letter and donation from Dr. Henry B. Wellman of 440 Riverside Drive, New York City, bears a postscript that it was forwarded "From the Hudson (river) to the Banks of the Wabash."

The accompanying Sept. 9 letter read:

"I visited with Mr. and Mrs. Steven Sabonya of 2106 North 13th street two weeks ago and they drove me to Wabash Park to see the brick house in which Paul Dresser was born.

"Now, I want to contribute a bite to its restoration. It was in my city here where, no doubt, he wrote much of his Tin Pan Alley music which is still used and made him famous.

"So please accept my little check of two dollars towards its restoration."

The restoration fund, estimated in need of approximately \$5,000 to complete the job, now rests at \$503 with the latest list of contributors reported to be:

Honey Creek Home Builders	
Home Ec Club	\$5.00
Mrs. Mabelle Hofferth, Kouts	
Ind.	
G. Weir Kirk	1.00
Dr. Robert A. Green	5.00
Anonymous	5.00
Clark County Center Unit of Clark Co. Homemakers Extension	2.50
Van Buren Home Ec Club, Brazil	5.00
Dr. Henry G. Wellman, New York City, N. Y.	2.00
Edward Malooley	3.00
Russell Kuhlman	5.00
Warren Yeager, Farmersburg	5.00

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THE PAUL DRESSER HOME was officially signed over to the Wabash Valley Historical Society by the city Monday preparatory to its removal to Fairbanks Park, where it will be restored and will become a city memorial. The property was located in the area now being razed under the urban renewal program. Representatives of the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment and the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee present were, from left, seated—Mrs. Dorothy Clark, committee chairman; Emanuel Gorland, executive director of the department; Wayne M. Weber, president of the Redevelopment Commission; G. M. Bosworth, and Harold J. Seiler, commissioners. Standing—Warren H. Brewer, society treasurer; Loring C. Halberstadt, president; Herbert Gerdink, department attorney, and Ralph Learnard, a member of the committee.

Photo by Martin.

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Community Affairs File

## Dresser's Home Ready for Move

6-4-63

Workmen this morning hope to raise the Paul Dresser home onto trucks for its 11-block move Wednesday morning, it was announced yesterday by the Vigo County Historical Society.

The two and one-half story brick home of the famed Hoosier song writer will be moved from a redevelopment area at 318 Harding Avenue to a site in Fairbanks Park overlooking the Wabash River, about which Dresser wrote in his song "On the Banks of the Wabash."

Moving of the house which is more than 100 years old, will cost \$5,000 for which funds were raised by private donations to the society. If the moving is successful, the society will launch a fund drive for restoration of the structure.

The moving operation is being carried out by the Elmer Buchta Engineering Company of Ottwell, Ind.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 1924.

Entered  
in Terr

## Our Paul Dresser

BY MAX EHRMANN.

Many years ago a boy was born on Walnut street, down near the river—a boy who had a strange career. He was not a little tin god; but he was not a bad boy, he was only fun-loving and adventuresome. His parents were poor and there were many sisters and brothers, so that he was compelled early to go to work. He worked in a bakery in North Fourth street, near the Pennsylvania railroad, he sold newspapers in the postoffice and he had several other jobs here in town. He then became a minstrel man in a cheap road company and later in a better company.

As time went on he became an actor in comedy and he wrote several popular plays. Also he was always writing songs. And, once in an hour of inspiration, he wrote a song about his home city, Terre Haute, a song that has been sung in every state in the Union and has crossed the sea into foreign lands, a song that has touched to tender emotion the hearts of millions of persons.

Now the United States is about to help us to commemorate this famous song writer, our own Paul Dresser. He was a big-hearted, pleasure-loving tuneful soul. He never knowingly did anyone any wrong. He lightened the burdens of millions by his melodies.

Under the guidance of William Fortune of Indianapolis and by the help of many distinguished men throughout the country, funds are being gathered from far and near. Let us here at home do our part! Let us not fail! "On the Banks of the Wabash" is calling us! It is the song of our city, of our state; it is the beloved song of a nation. It celebrates us where even the name of our city is unknown.

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Community Affairs File

**This Old House—**

## **Paul Dresser Home Ready for Transfer**

*Dresser Home*

*T.H. TRD. 5/30/63*

**By LEE SLOVER TURNER**

Memorial Day 1963 is just a few days from the notable day on which Terre Haute and Vigo County are about to realize the removal of the more than 100-year-old Paul Dresser home to its permanent location in Fairbanks Park.

Workmen of the Buchta moving firm of Jasper were completing the "boxing in" of the two-story brick building this week and estimated that it would be ready for the transfer about Monday or early next week.

Officials of the Vigo County Historical Society, to whom the City Department of Redevelopment sold the property recently for a token fee of \$1 for memorial purposes, confirmed the tentative transfer period.

### **Ceremony Planned.**

However, they noted that an appropriate ceremony and gathering of officials representing government is being arranged many areas of civic life ranged to commemorate the long-awaited house moving. It will be announced shortly.

As previously arranged, it will be placed on a permanent park site in the northwest corner, on a foundation made possible by donated local union labor and materials provided by local business establishments.

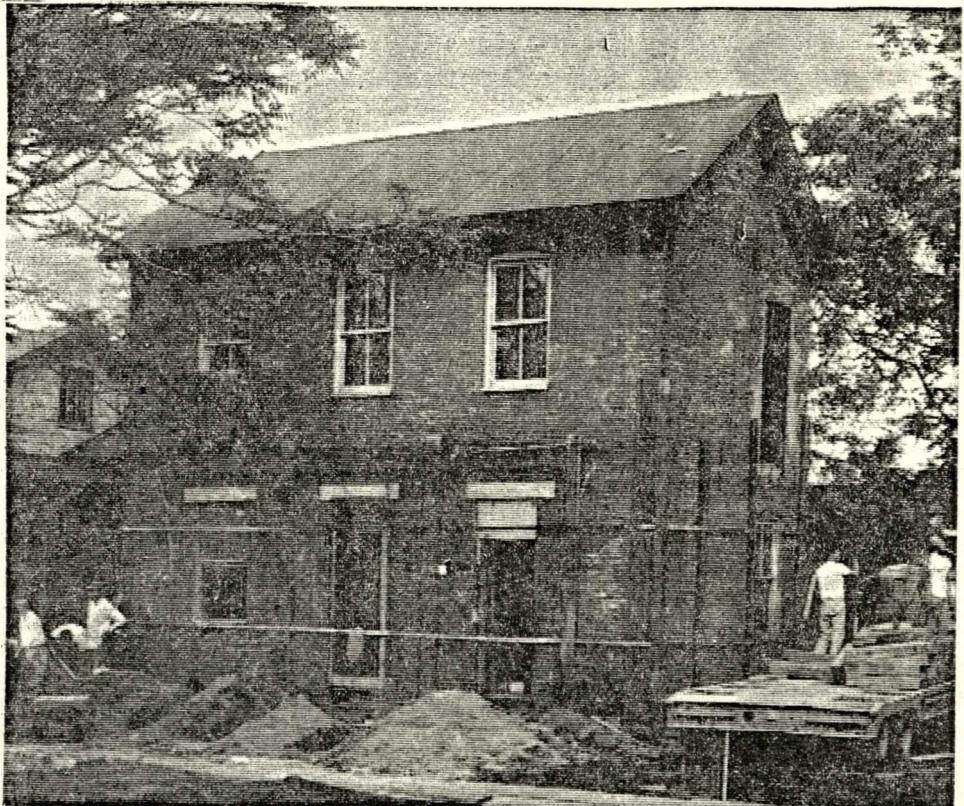
The cost of moving it was provided by donations forwarded by people from throughout the county, state, nation and even some parts of the world.

### **Restoration Funds.**

Funds are now being received with which to restore the dwelling to its original state and decor, many items of furniture, materials and equipment of the Dresser period already having been received or promised to the society's committee headed by Mrs. Dorothy Clark.

Officials of the Indiana State Historical Society have prophesied that the memorial will draw hundreds to the city to view the place where Dresser was born and where his equally novelist brother, Theodore Dreisler (the legal family name), also lived as a boy.

It will overlook Dresser which Dresser immortalized throughout the world.



THIS OLD HOUSE, the birthplace of Paul Dresser, world famous Terre Haute songwriter and author of Indiana's official state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash," is expected to start its long-awaited move to a permanent memorial site in Fairbanks Park next week. It is over 100 years old and located in the 300 block on South Second street.

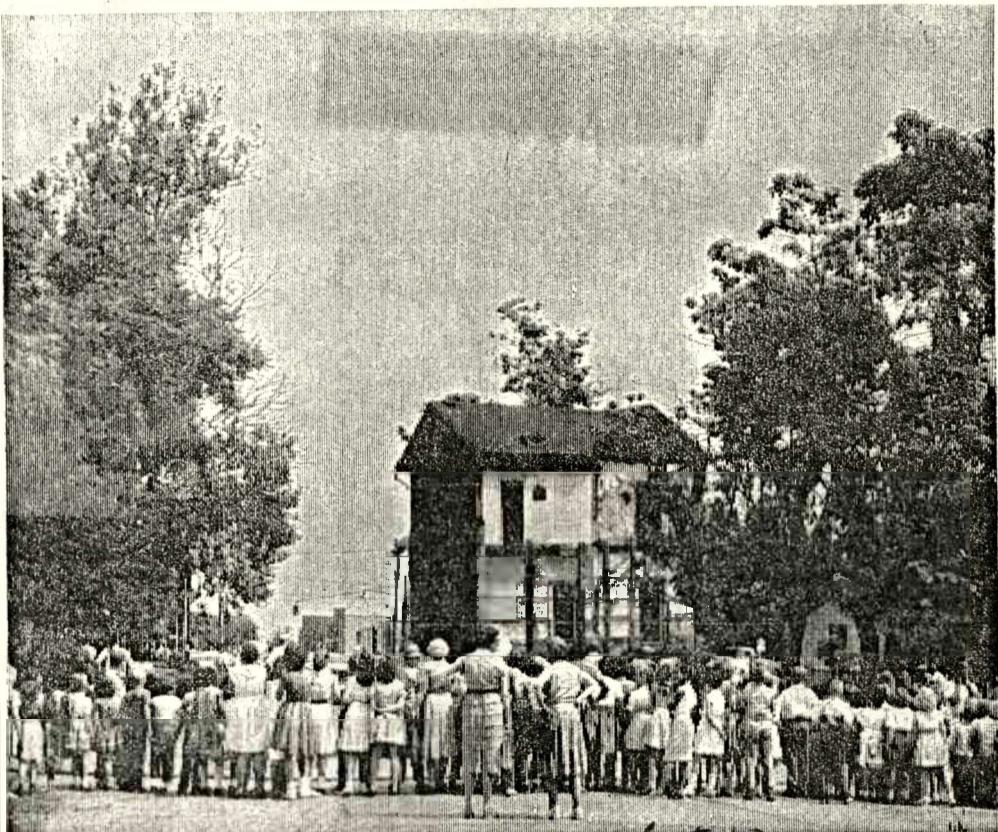
Photo by Martin.

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T.H. Trip 6, 5, 63  
CROWDS GATHERED Wednesday morning at the site of the Paul Dresser home, 318 Harding avenue, to watch workmen start moving the old brick house to its new memorial spot in Fairbanks Park. The \$5,000 job is being done with funds contributed for this purpose by citizens from many parts of the country. Birthplace of the Hoosier songwriter now will overlook the subject of his most famous song, "On the Banks of the Wabash."

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T.H.  
Dresser, Paul  
T.H. Star - 6/6/63

## Paul Dresser Home Successfully Moved to Fairbanks Park Site

BY DAVE NEESE

The 111-year-old Paul Dresser home yesterday successfully completed its one-half mile journey to the banks of the Wabash River where it will be restored as an historical monument to the early Terre Haute song writer.

Workmen of the Buchta moving firm of Otusell "boxed in" the old, two and one-half story building with cables and metal stripping as though they were wrapping a large package and delicately moved the home to its new location—the Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive.

+

THE HOME originally was situated at 318 Harding Avenue, in a redevelopment area. Officials of the Vigo County Historical Society purchased the home from the City Department of Redevelopment for a token fee of \$1.

It was announced last night at a Vigo County Historical Society meeting that John Hartmann of the Hartmann Company has offered to re-roof the home as his contribution to the restoration.

A foundation for the home will be constructed with donated

union labor and materials from local businesses.

At the moving yesterday, the Strawberry Hill Cannoneers were on hand to salute the event with a cannon salute.

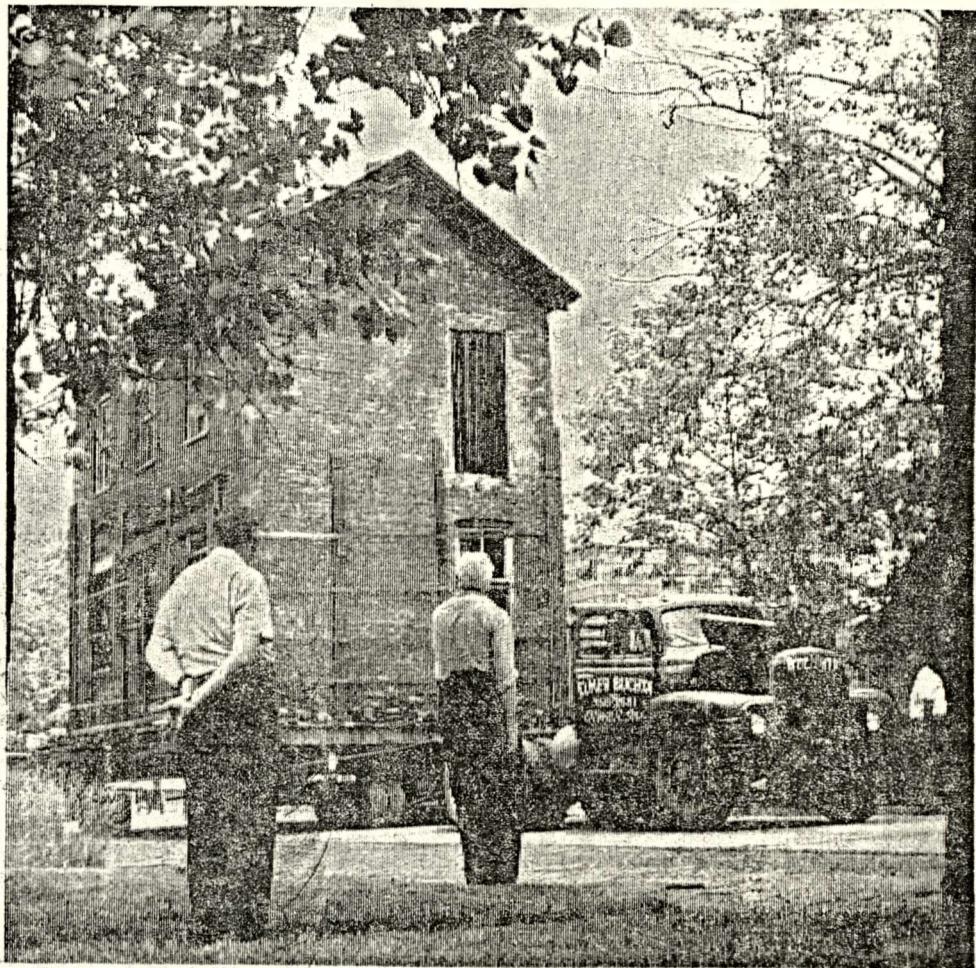
It was announced that funds are now being received with

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See DRESSER HOME  
On Page 2, Column 4



(Photo by Charles)

**HISTORIC HOME MOVED TO PARK**—The family home of Paul Dresser, who wrote Indiana's official state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash," was moved yesterday to Fairbanks Park near the Wabash River. The 111-year-old house made the 11-block trip to the spot where the Vigo County Historical Society will preserve the building as a landmark at an estimated cost of \$20,000. House is shown above at start of moving. Elmer Buchta, moving contractor is at extreme right.

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Community Affairs File

# Send Letters of Thanks To Dresser Contributors

TH. Trib. 6/13/63

The Vigo County Historical Society through its Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee mailed letters of appreciation Thursday to more than 1,000 individuals and organizations who aided in financing the removal last week of the century-old Dresser home to a permanent memorial site in Fairbanks Park.

The mailing contained information regarding the home, its history and that of its famous songwriter and his family as well as a reprint of a composite picture Terre Haute Elks Lodge 86 compiled two years ago and presented to local schools and libraries.

The Society and its committee are now soliciting funds, materials and furnishings with which to restore the two-story dwelling to its original state of occupancy as a Terre Haute and Vigo County link with the past.

#### Need Volunteers.

A request for old brick donations has resulted in many calls with offers of fireplaces and outdoor ovens for the raising, according to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the preservation committee.

"Now we need volunteers to tear down these donated structures and clean the brick," she observed, adding that any individuals or groups interested in aiding with the project may contact the society at its Vigo County Historical Museum, Sixth and Washington streets.

Information on the reverse side of the Dresser composite, which pictures Dresser, the second copy of his "On the Banks of the Wabash," and his authentication of the house as his birthplace, lists basic information of his life's history: Born April 22, 1859, son of John Paul Dreiser (Dresser) and Sarah Ann Schneppes, died Jan. 30, 1908, and buried in St. Boniface cemetery, Chicago, Ill.

It also notes that his famous song became Indiana's state song by a 1913 Act of the Indiana Legislature. "My Gal Sal" was the last of his song and lyric creations which included: "Just Tell Them That You Saw Me," "Don't Tell Her That You Love Her," "I Wonder If She'll Ever Come Back to Me," "In the Sweet Summer Time," "The Old Flame Flickers and I Wonder Why" and "Our Country May She Always Be Right, But Our Country Right or Wrong."

The odd sounding titles denotes the truth in a segment of the society's communication to the Dresser Memorial proponents. It read:

"In the Gay Nineties, Paul Dresser was one of the brightest lights on Broadway and one of the most successful song writers of Tin Pan Alley. His music was the type we could call 'strictly cornball' today but, in that sentimental era, it was just what the public wanted to hear. So they bought the sheet music and barber shop quartets sang his songs."

The accompanying letter read:

Dear Friend:

For some time the Vigo County Historical Society has been very concerned about the fate of the century-old brick house whose only claim to fame is that it is the birthplace of Hoosier song writer Paul Dresser—the composer of Indiana's state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash." Located at 318 South Second street in the heart of the city's slum clearance area, the house was slated for destruction.

The deed for his property shows that the last installment was paid by Paul's father just three months before Paul was born on April 22, 1859. At least four of his brothers and sisters were born in this house before it was sold in 1863. ▶

In March, 1961, a committee was formed to save the house from the bulldozers and move it to the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets, in Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive, which seemed an appropriate site "on the banks of the Wabash."

Over five thousand dollars

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was raised (with your help) to move the historic structure, and on June 5, 1963, the house was successfully moved the six blocks to its new foundation—a wonderfully intricate engineering feat!

Now the work of rehabilitation and restoration begins. More funds are necessary to complete the work. The Society hopes everyone will get behind this project and help get the job done. The restored home, furnished authentically in the 1850-1860 period, will become an outstanding tourist attraction as well as preserving part of Indiana's history and musical heritage.

We are asking for YOUR financial support so that we can finish the work of restoring this historic home—a graphic reminder of how 90% of our Indiana ancestors lived during the pre-Civil War days. Send your contribution to: DRESSER HOME RESTORATION FUND, 2032 North Eighth Street, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Very truly yours,  
Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark,  
chairman

Any person, who may have missed inclusion in the fund raising project for the dwelling transfer, are also invited to aide in the building restoration, according to Mrs. Clark. She reminded that "this is a community project and one in which we feel every Terre Haute and Vigo County resident, past, present and future, can take just pride."

Contributions may be forwarded to the "Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee, P.O. Box 1041, Terre Haute, Ind."

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BRICK GALORE  
Dresser, Paul  
FOR MEMORIAL  
Trib 6/14/65

"The heart of Terre Haute and Vigo county is big and its response to the Paul Dresser Permanent Memorial program has been tremendous," stated Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the Vigo County Historical Society's Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee.

A Wednesday evening and Thursday morning request was publicized for old brick with which to begin restoration of the more than a century old Dresser home in its new Fairbanks Park location overlooking the Wabash River.

So tremendous was the response in less than 24 hours after the TRIBUNE first published the request that "more than enough brick has been received to do the necessary work," Mrs. Clark advised Thursday afternoon.

"Tell the people we don't

need any more old brick but we are extremely grateful for their immediate and abundant response."

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Community Affairs File

## First Contributions Listed For Dresser Restoration

Dresser 6/23/63

Funds are needed for the restoration of the Paul Dresser Birthplace which was recently moved from its original site at 318 Harding avenue to a permanent location in Fairbanks Park.

Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, chairman of the special committee of the Vigo County Historical Society charged with the preservation of the house, says the home will be furnished in an authentic 1850-1860 style to serve as "a graphic reminder of how 90 per cent of our Indiana ancestors lived during the pre-Civil War days."

Dresser, who wrote Indiana's official state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash," was born in the two-story brick building on April 22, 1859.

In recent years the house has stood vacant and was scheduled to be razed in the current redevelopment project in the southwest side area. But the committee managed to raise \$5,000 for the moving of the home.

The century-old building was finally moved to its current location on June 5.

### On New Foundation.

Since then the foundation on the new site has been com-

pleted and the building now looks as if it belongs there. The chimneys have been rebuilt with brick donated by Mr. and Mrs. George W. Archambeault of 1608 Harding avenue.

In the Gay '90s Dresser was one of the brightest lights on Broadway and one of the most successful song writers of Tin Pan Alley. His music would be called strictly "cornball" today, but it was just what the doctor ordered in that sentimental era.

Although "On the Banks of the Wabash" (made the state's official song by an Act of the legislature in 1913) is his most famous song, many of tunes, including his last, "My Gal Sal," enjoyed a great deal of popularity.

Contributions to the restoration fund should be sent to Dresser Home Restoration Fund, 2032 North Eighth street, Terre Haute. Early contributors to the fund include:

Miss Mary South	\$25.00
Mrs. Margaret Mathew	5.00
Deming School (Mrs. Libbert's 4th grade class)	3.00
A. W. Lindholm	2.00
Julian S. Hicks	5.00
Margaret H. Hicks	5.00
George O. Hall	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Burrell	2.00
Gilbert S. Cluder	10.00
Miss Eleanor M. Hack Indianapolis, Ind.	10.00
Miss Helen E. Reeve	5.00
Mrs. Elmer T. Smith Brentwood, Mo.	2.00
Thorp L. Wolford Louisville 2, Ky.	10.00
Charlotte M. Wild	1.00
Virgil E. Morris	10.00
Edward Paitson	10.00
Miss Florence Hunsucker	3.00
Miss Lucille Stewart Indianapolis	5.00
Ber Blumberg	50.00
Mrs. Carmenita Foley	5.00
Total	\$175.00

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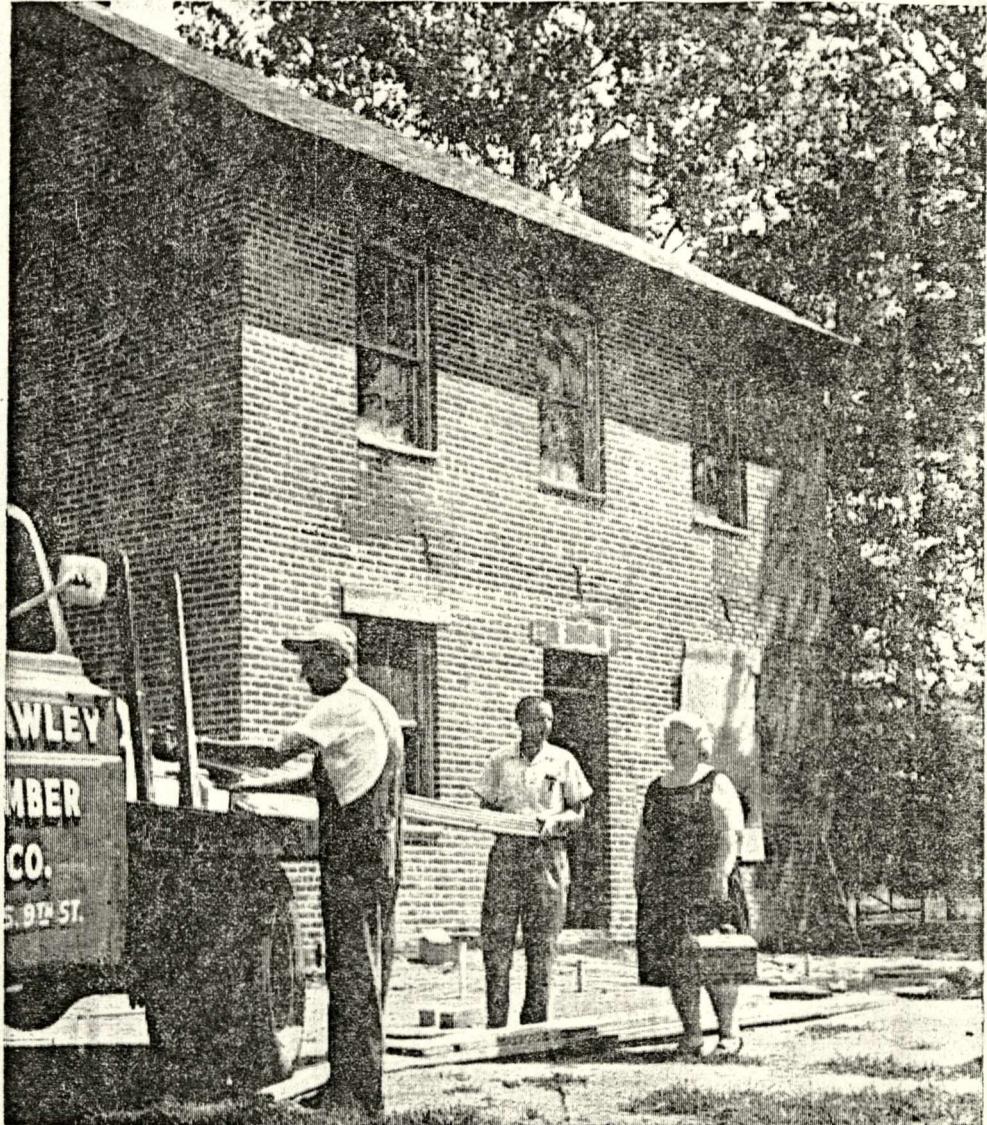


THE PAUL DRESSER HOME now is undergoing facelifting in its new location in Fairbanks Park where it will be an historical monument to the late Terre Haute songwriter. Watching the progress of the restoration are three area businessmen whose firms are co-operating in the civic venture, from left: John E. Hartman of Hartman Roofing Company which is repairing the roof of the old structure; Hubert A. Nichols of Cayuga Brick Corp., which donated brick for the re-facing, and Shelton Hannig, who heads his own architect and construction firm.

Photo by Martin.

7-6-21-63

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T. H. Star 7-2-1963

(Photo by Charles)

**LUMBER FIRM HELPS**—Workmen of the S. H. Pawley Lumber Company, Inc., are shown delivering materials to build a stairway for the Paul Dresser Birthplace. Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, chairman of the Birthplace Preservation Committee of the Vigo County Historical Society, watches the unloading operation. The lumber was donated through the generosity of Mrs. Elsie Pawley, a life member of the Vigo County Historical Society.

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# Paul Dresser Birthplace Group Seeks Funds to Continue Work

Restoration work on the Paul Dresser Home will be halted Friday because of lack of funds, according to the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee of the Vigo County Historical Society. A minimum of \$5,000 is needed to continue the project, it was announced.

Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, chairman of the committee, said that the Historical Society has been deeply concerned about the fate of the century-old brick house which was the birthplace of the Hoosier song writer Paul Dresser, composer of Indiana's state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash."

+ + +

THE HOUSE was moved on June 5 to a new foundation in the Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive from its location at 318 South Second Street in the heart of the city's slum clearance area. Mrs. Clark said the house was slated for destruction but the Historical Society, with the help of local citizens, raised more than \$5,000 to move the structure.

Mrs. Clark said the house moving operation was a "wonderfully intricate engineering feat." Steel bands had to be utilized to keep the two-story brick structure from crumbling during the six-block journey to the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets.

The rehabilitation and restoration work will resume as quickly as additional funds can be raised, according to Mrs. Clark. The Society intends to furnish the home with authentic furniture of the 1850-1860 period, and expects it to be an outstanding tourist attraction as well as preserving a portion of Indiana's history and musical heritage.

+ + +

THE HISTORICAL Society has received \$276 to date of the needed \$5,000. Among the recent contributors are: Charles Carroll Chapter, D. A. R., Delphi, \$5; Miss Opal O. Liston, Tucson, Ariz., \$5; Mr. and Mrs. G. C. McDaniel, \$5; Judge Albert R. Owens, \$5; Frances Dingman Chapter, D. A. R., Kendallville, \$2; William E. Lutz, \$5; Forrest Sherer, \$25; Mrs. Ed Heinig, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Maienschein, \$2; Mrs. J. A. Hankins, Sullivan,

\$10; Miss Thelma Newcomer, Gresham, Ore., \$1; Active Gamma Gamma Chapter, Tri Kappa, \$25; Learn-a-Lot Home Demonstration Club, \$5, and Mrs. Eva Rosine Cox, \$1.

Mrs. Clark said that contributions may be addressed to: Dresser Home Restoration Fund, 2032 North Eighth Street, Terre Haute, Ind.

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7-4-63  
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**TERRE HAUTE PAINTERS AID DRESSER MEMORIAL RESTORATION**—Volunteer painters of Terre Haute Local 197, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, gathered at the Paul Dresser Birthplace Memorial Saturday to continue painting operations begun Thursday and Friday by other volunteers of the Local. In the group are: Frank Moore, Frank Compton, Cecil Hayes, Bernard Farris, Wilber Snodgrass, Ralph Bryant, Hook Moldroski, Ralph Taylor, Howard Hayhurst, Lonnie Stringer, Jessie Richie, Bernard Dowden and John P. McDaniel.

Photo by Martin.

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## Preservation of Historic Dresser Home Requires Additional Funds

S 7-11-63

A minimum of \$5,000 is needed to continue the restoration of the recently relocated Paul Dresser birthplace, according to Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, chairman of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee of the Vigo

County Historical Society.

The committee, which was formed in March of 1961 to save the historic homeplace of the composer of Indiana's state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away," was successful in raising an initial \$5,000 to move the structure from the redevelopment area to Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive.

+ + +

MOVERS succeeded in relocating the house on the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets, virtually on the banks of the Wabash, on June 5 of this year. Mrs. Clark termed the operation a "wonderfully intricate engineering feat." Steel bands had to be wrapped about the crumbling brick building to keep it in one piece. Hundreds of curious "sidewalk superintendents" viewed the moving operation.

But restoration work to the interior and exterior of the home was stopped last Friday when the committee funds were exhausted, according to Mrs. Clark.

As additional funds are received the home will be restored and furnished authentically in the 1850-1860 period. The Historical Society expects the Dresser Birthplace to become an outstanding tourist attraction as well as preserving a part of Indiana's history and musical heritage.

+ + +

THE DEED for the former site of the home at 318 South Second Street shows that the last installment was paid by Paul Dresser's father just three months before Paul was born on April 22, 1859. At least four of his brothers and sisters were born in the house before it was sold in 1863, according to information from the Dresser Birthplace Committee.

Considerable work and funds must be expended to renovate the exterior and interior of the home. The society estimates \$5,000 as the minimum necessary to continue the project. Presently, there is no means of

(over)



(Photo by Charles)

**DRESSER HOME DILEMMA**—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark and their son, Dennis, dramatize one of the situations which must be corrected before the Paul Dresser birthplace can be opened as a tourist attraction—a ladder and scaffold must be utilized to get to the second floor of the historic home. Mrs. Clark, chairman of the Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee of the Vigo County Historical Society, said Wednesday that \$5,000 is needed to continue work on restoration of the home. Work halted last Friday after an initial \$5,000 was expended. Most of this was used for moving the structure to its present location in Fairbanks Park.

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getting to the second story of the two-story brick structure except by using a ladder and scaffold on the outside. The stairway which formerly led to the second floor is missing.

The Paul Dresser Birthplace Preservation Committee is soliciting the financial support of area residents to continue the renovation. The home will serve as a graphic reminder of how 90 per cent of our Indiana ancestors lived during pre-Civil War days, according to Mrs. Clark. Contributions, either in the form of cash or donated materials, may be useful to the committee's goal. Interested persons should contact the Dresser Home Restoration Fund, 2032 North Eighth Street, Terre Haute, Ind.

# Dresser Home Restoration Moves Slowly

*T 7-28-1963*

Restoration of the Paul Dresser Home, recently moved to Fairbanks Park on the bank of the Wabash River which he made famous in a song, continues at a slow pace, Dorothy Clark, secretary of the Wabash Valley Historical Museum, reported Saturday.

Mrs. Clark said the project is particularly handicapped by the need for money and laborers, although she said that a number of carpenters have generously donated time off to devote to renovating the landmark.

She also expressed gratitude to the Public Service Company of Indiana which has provided power lines with which to operate power tools at the site. Also, according to Mrs. Clark, the utility has offered to erect a park pole light to illuminate the scene on completion of work.

Mrs. Clark lauded Mrs. Elsie Pawley of the Pawley Lumber Company for her interest in the shrine and for the contributions of lumber and other materials.

The museum official commented that several organizations, including clubs and civic groups, have manifested interest in the replacement of eight windows and three doors in the house. Each of these, it was estimated, will cost \$75.

Latest tally of the restoration fund showed a total of \$423.70 contributed. Mrs. Clark reported. Among new contributors are Robert Gatewood, Chicago, \$10; the Prairie Creek Home Demonstration Club, \$5; Mrs. Roy E. Buren, \$5; Morton A. Lewis, \$5; Mrs. J. B. Cox, Marshall, \$5; Erminia Fenoglio, West Terre Haute, \$5; City Commercial, \$15; Eastside Home Demonstration Club, \$5; Norman K. Brown, Washington, D. C., \$2; Ewing H. Miller, \$5, and Miss Frances Halberstadt, Newcastle, \$5.

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## Lack of Funds Calls Half to Work On Dresser Home Restoration

T.H. Paul Dresser  
T.H. STAR - 8/22/63

The Vigo County Historical Society had tentatively set April 22, 1964, Paul Dresser's birthday, as the opening date of the Hoosier songwriter's birthplace but restoration work has come to a halt because funds are lacking.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the birthplace preservation committee, said the windows have been boarded up and the furnishings are in storage until funds are available for continuation of the project. A primer coat of paint must be applied to the new wooden porch and outside stairway to protect them from the weather, according to Mrs. Clark.

THE TWO-STORY brick structure was moved to the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets on Dresser Drive last June 5 at a cost of \$5,000. The initial funds were given by area residents and business

firms, but money or material for renovation of the home have not been coming in at a rate which would allow completion of the project in early Spring. Material and labor or cash donations to advance the Paul Dresser Birthplace restoration may be sent to Dresser Home Restoration Fund, 2032 North Eighth Street, Terre Haute, Ind.

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MRS. CLARK noted that four of the last nine contributions were made by persons residing out of Vigo County. The total now stands at \$463.70, several thousand dollars short of the needed amount.

Latest contributors include Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wampler, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Wiandt, \$5; P. D. Silliman, \$5; Herschel Penry, \$1; Raccoon Township Home Demonstration Club of Parke County, \$5; Sugar Grove Home Demonstration Club, \$5; Kozy Korners Home Demonstration Club of Washington, Ind., \$2. Union Belles 4-H Club of West Union, Ill., \$2, and Van Buren Hustling Helpers 4-H Club of Harmony, \$5.

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# New Contribution Assures Paul Dresser Restoration

By EULETA SLOVER  
TURNER

Work on the Paul Dresser Birthplace Memorial was resumed this week as the result of an anonymous contribution, according to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, chairman of the sponsoring Vigo County Historical Society's committee in charge.

Mrs. Clark said an individual "who wishes to remain anonymous" assured the Society this past week of funds sufficient to complete the construction of eight especially built windows for the house.

The donor offered to underwrite the cost, remaining in excess of funds now on hand from individual contributions received from throughout the city, valley and state.

It is hoped to have the windows completed within "two or three weeks" and ready for installation preparatory to total restoration of the Dresser home, now permanently located in the southeast edge of Fairbanks Park at First and Farington streets.

## Will Install Windows.

Apprentice carpenters of the vocational training class at the Vigo County School Corporation's Adult Education Center have agreed to install the windows without charge as a community service.

Mrs. Clark said the labor contribution was secured through the co-operation of Howard R. Turner, vocational counselor-coordinator of the VCSC's Building Trades Program and the Joint Apprenticeship Committee of the Associated Building Contractors of Terre Haute and Local 133, Carpenters and Joiners of America Union.

The apprenticeship program is conducted under the JAC supervision, the ABC being

represented on the committee by contractors Charles Woods, Tom Price and Ted Locke and the Carpenters' Local by journeymen Walter McMahan, Eugene Pantle and Leon Huff.

Apprentices who will install the windows are Richard Broady, Robert Knight, Billy Livvix, Jack Marshall, Robert Smith, Gale Titos, Curtis Bailey, Joseph Cottrell, Harvey Phillips and Richard Hunter, accompanied by the class instructor, Ronald Sullivan.

## Contribute Furniture.

A large number of furniture items have been contributed and are being held in storage. They will be used to completely furnish the home as it might have appeared when the Dresser (Dresser's legal surname) family occupied it at the original location, 318 South Second street.

The house was secured by the Society last summer from the City Department of Redevelopment with the stipulation that it be moved from the former location in the clearance area of the Urban Renewal Program's Southwest Area Project.

Numerous Terre Haute businesses, industries and individuals have pledged materials and services with which to complete the restoration plans. These are being held in abeyance until such time as the restoring plans reach the particular stage in which they are involved.

The Society and its committee hope to have the dwelling completely restored and ready for an official opening by April 22, the date of Dresser's 105th birthday.

Dresser died Jan. 30, 1906, and is buried in St. Boniface cemetery at Chicago. But, he had the distinction during his lifetime of writing such immortal tunes as "On The Banks of The Wabash," now declared Indiana's official state song by an act of the General Assembly.

The permanent memorial location overlooks the Wabash River and Dresser Drive which winds along the east bank of the river and through the extremity of the park.

The latest list of contributors, announced by the committee, are:

Mrs. Joe Solomon	\$ 5
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Boyd	5
Fred J. Hoberg	3
Miss Maude Otte	3
Herbert Mace	10
Beecher Cromwell	2
Opal Edwards	1
Mrs. Althea Hennekam	3
Dan Pyle, South Bend	5
Allen D. Merrill	10
Mrs. Earl Martin, Indianapolis	5
Mrs. Frances Monce, Brazil	5
Moriah Go-Getter 4-H Club Casey, Ill.	5

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# Dresser Home T. H. Trib. 4/22/66. Work Proceeds On Birthday

The Vigo County Historical Society marked the Paul Dresser birthday Friday with more joy than usual for the long awaited renovation of the Dresser Home in Dresser Park has been started.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark reported that the demolition of an old swimming pool in the park has just been completed. The actual demolition is what delayed the project for many months.

On the birthday of one of Terre Haute's most famous citizens, Paul Dresser, who wrote the state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash," carpenters were preparing the millwork for windows in his birthplace.

#### Will Install Windows

The first step, according to Shelton Hannig, local architect, who has supervised much of the work on the renovation plans, is to install specially made windows.

Mrs. Clark explained that the windows were specially made because each was a different size. When building a house in those days, the brick layers just left spaces and it was up to the carpenters to fill whatever space was left with frames for windows.

The next step will be the installation of the porch posts which are being reconstructed now at Mayrose Milling. After painting, the restoration work inside the house will begin.

Paul Dresser was born April 22, 1859 and the Dresser Home at that time was located at 318 South Second Street. In 1963, the Historical Society had the home moved to Dresser Park where they began plans for the renovation of the house.

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## Opening of Paul Dresser Birthplace Expected Soon

*T.H. Star 6/23/66.*  
In keeping with the theme of the Terre Haute Sesquicentennial observance, to preserve the heritage of this community the Vigo County Historical Society expects to open the Paul Dresser birthplace at First and Far-

ington streets to the public within three weeks.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark, secretary of the society and chairman of the drive to restore the house in which the famous local songwriter was born, said the home

is being refurbished to its original condition preceding the Civil War.

Volunteer craftsmen, including local union painters and paperhangers, are contributing their time to the project. Mrs. Clark reported that the outside of the home is already finished, while marked progress is being made in painting and papering in the interior. Woodwork is even being oiled, as it was during the 1850s.

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Mrs. Clark revealed that the state historical society has shown considerable interest in the undertaking. Officials of the organization have told her it was the most interesting project that has been carried out in connection with the state Sesquicentennial observance.

As a matter of fact, Mrs. Clark revealed that the policy of the state Sesquicentennial committee is to restore old landmarks and historical points of interest. She is chairman for Vigo County for the Indiana State Sesquicentennial Commission.

Mrs. Clark pointed out that the Paul Dresser home actually is the only poor man's house that has been perpetuated for its historical significance in Indiana. The other places, she explained, had been occupied by wealthy persons.

"Actually," she related, "90 per cent of our Hoosier ancestors lived in such a house in 1850."

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What pleases Mrs. Clark so much about the project is that she believes the home will become a tourist attraction and draw thousands of visitors. She also thinks it will benefit school children in the study of history.

To make the project a success, however, Mrs. Clark hopes for continued support from the community. She said funds are desperately needed to complete the undertaking. As a money raising venture now being carried out, the historical society is selling china plates and copies

of the first Terre Haute newspaper, the "Western Advertiser," in 1823.

The Paul Dresser home originally stood at 318 S. 2nd St., and it was moved to its present location three years ago as a result of an Urban Renewal Project.

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The city council granted \$2,500 from Terre Haute's budget to defray expenses for the undertaking, and an additional \$5,000 was realized by public contributions. In addition, the Vigo County Historical Society donated another \$5,000.

The society leased a 200-square-foot section of land at the northwest corner of First and Farrington streets from the City Park Department as a site for the home.

Already brick has been restored on the outside of the house and a new porch has been added, plus the construction of a foundation.

Although the Society appreciates all gifts, both large and small. Mrs. Clark said it is especially grateful for the thousands of small donations that have been received "because this is a community endeavor that stretches far and wide and we would like as many people, firms and organizations as possible to feel themselves a part of it."

Persons wishing to contribute to the restoration may address their donations to: Paul Dresser Home Restoration Fund, 2032 North Eighth street, Terre Haute, Ind.

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Dresser, Paul  
**Dresser Home**  
T. H. TRIB. STAR. 7/6  
**Restoration in  
Final Stages**

By CHARLES CREMER

A significant addition to the deposit of Terre Haute culture, tradition and history will be made at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 9, the time and date of the official opening to the public of the restored home which was the birthplace of Paul Dresser, famous local songwriter.

Workmen are in the final stages of the restoration of the home, located at Fairbanks Park on Dresser Dr. Mrs. Dorothy Clark, secretary of the Vigo County Historical Society and chairman of the drive to restore and preserve the house for posterity, indicated Saturday the paperhangers have about completed their work, ironwork, furniture, signs and other final touches are within reach of completion, and all is in readiness for the official opening.

Paul Dresser was born in the home April 22, 1859. It was then located at 318 S. 2nd St., and was moved to its present location June 5, 1963, when threatened with destruction because of the urban renewal project in the area.

**Wrote State Song**

Dresser became famous as a songwriter when he composed the plaintive "On the Banks of the Wabash," which became Indiana's state song by act of the Legislature in 1913. The last song of his career, "My Gal Sal," gained national popularity and still enjoys periodic revival. In the Gay Nineties, Paul Dresser was one of the brightest lights on Broadway and one of the most popular and successful song writers of Tin Pan Alley. His music might be called

"cornball" in some circles today but in that sentimental era it was just what the public wanted to hear. Dresser's compositions became part of the repertoire of barbershop quartets throughout the land.

He died Jan. 30, 1906, and was buried in St. Boniface Cemetery at Chicago, leaving behind a musical commentary on the mood, the sentiment and the human condition of the people of the post-Civil War era.

For Mrs. Clark, the restoration of Dresser's home has been laborious, but a labor with sensitivity, dedication and purpose. The home has been refurbished to its original condition preceding the Civil War. It has been done largely with volunteer help and donated materials, and gifts of \$5,000 from the society, \$2,500 from the city council, and funds realized through the sale of mementos, plus private donations.

Typical of the donations was a check for \$5 received by Mrs. Clark from Deming School fourth graders and their teachers, Betty Jo Chaney and Anna Jane Libbert.

Mrs. Clark noted that Mrs. Libbert's classes were the first to contribute to the fund to pay for moving the house, the first to contribute to the fund to help in its restoration, and now, the first to contribute to the fund being used to complete the restoration.

Following is list of sheet music composed by Paul Dresser and bound in volume owned by Historical Museum:

"On the Banks of the Wabash."

"Just Tell Them That You Saw Me."

"Don't Tell Her That You Love Her or Mankind Is Seldom True."

"I Wonder If She'll Ever Come Back to Me."

"In the Sweet Summertime."

"Sweet Savannah."

"Come Tell Me What's Your Answer, Yes or No."

"Dream of My Boyhood Days."

"I Wish That You Were Here Tonight."

"Our Country May She Always Be Right, But Our Country, Right or Wrong."

"He Brought Home Another."

"Your God Come First, Your Country Next, Then Mother Dear."

"A Sailor's Grave By the Sea."

"The Old Flame Flickers and I Wonder Why."

"If You See My Sweetheart."

"I Was Looking for My Boy, She Said on Decoration Day."

"You're Going Far Away Lad or I'm Still Your Mother Dear."

"Take a Seat Old Lady."

"Every Night There's a Light or the Light in the Window Pane."

"We Fight Tomorrow Mother."

He Fought for the Cause He Thought Was Right."

"Show Me the Way."

"We Are Coming, Cuba, Coming."

"Say Yes, Love."

Other songs titles mentioned, but not included in the volume of sheet music:

"The Path That Leads the Other Way."

"The Pardon Came Too Late."

"Rosie, Sweet Rosabel."

"The Letter That Never Came."

"He Didn't Seem Glad to See Me."

"He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not."

"Jean."

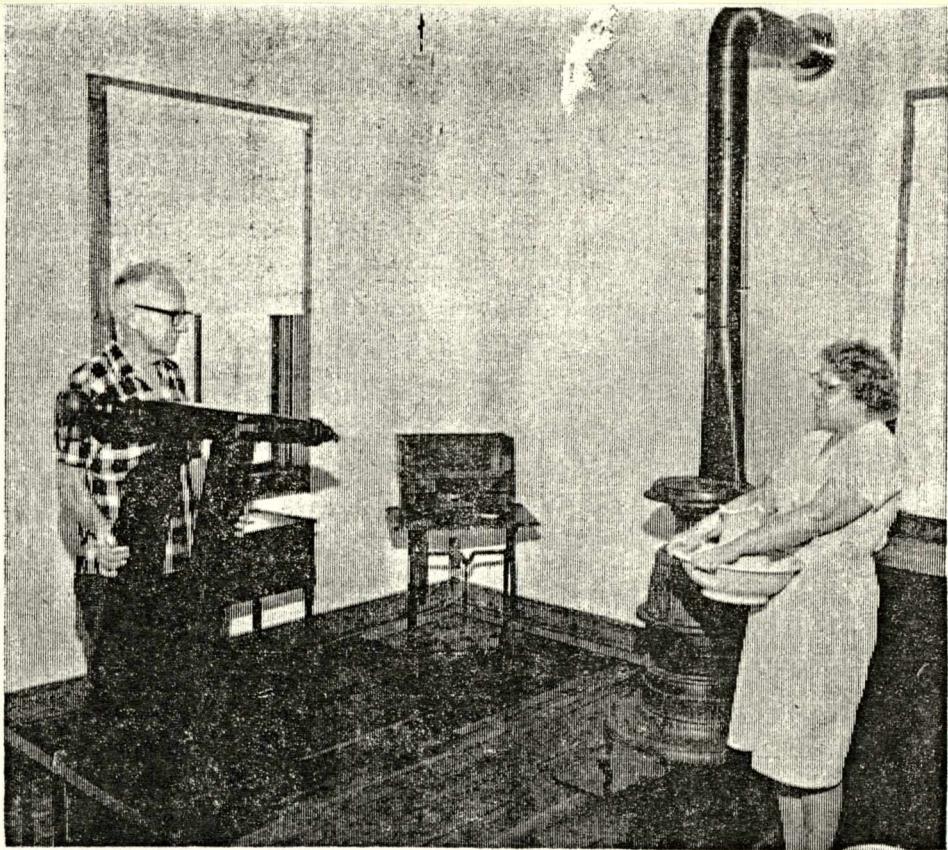
"Once Every Year."

"Here Lies An Actor."

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**ON DISPLAY SATURDAY** — Roy and Katherine Buren, local antique dealers working to help authenticate the pieces used to furnish the Paul Dresser Birthplace in Fairbanks Park, are shown with some of the pieces used to furnish the home. Buren is holding a cannon ball or cord bed, which belonged to the Dorley family, while his wife has an ironstone bowl and pitcher. In the center at the rear is the sewing machine upon which Mrs. Dreiser sewed for tailors at 50 cents a day. Also prominent is a wood-burning stove like the ones used for heating the house. (Photo by Kadel)

## *Dresser Park* 'Moving in Day' Draws Near T. H. Stark 7/1/61 At Paul Dresser Home

Official opening of the Paul Dresser birthplace in Fairbanks Park is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, with John G. Biel, president of the Vigo County Historical Society serving as master of ceremonies.

Workers have been busy this week setting up the last of furnishings. Tuesday, the day with the highest discomfort index of the Summer, workmen were busy setting up woodburning stoves of the type used for heating in the home more than 100 years ago.

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"And if you think it is easy to find a workman who knows how to install a stove pipe, you're wrong," says Mrs. Dorothy Clark, secretary of the VCHS and curator of its museum articles.

Included in the items on display in the home is the sewing machine upon which Dresser's mother sewed for tailors, earning 50 cents a day, while her husband, also Paul, worked at a local woolen mill.

The sewing machine followed the family in its migrations to Sullivan, Vincennes and Evansville as the family grew to 13, although only 10 of the children, of whom Paul was the oldest, lived. Theodore, the novelist, who retained the name of Dreis-

er while his song-writer brother changed his, was among the youngest and was not born in the Dresser birthplace. The family outgrew it after four children.

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Hubert H. Hawkins is expected to represent the Indiana Historical Society at Saturday's ceremonies at which Mayor Ralph Tucker will officiate in the ribbon-cutting. Dr. James Guthrie of Indiana University and Dr. Richard Gemmecke of Indiana State University, both members of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission, also will attend as well as city and county officials.

Richard Tuttle, staff assistant of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, is in charge of the music for the event, which will feature Dresser numbers, including the state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash."

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PAUL DRESSER

## Miss Mary South to Attend Dedication; Dresser's Friend

Dresser, Paul  
T. H. Trib. 11/18/66

Miss Mary South of Terre Haute, to whom Paul Dresser dedicated his famous son, "On the Banks of the Wabash," plans to attend the opening ceremonies of the Paul Dresser birthplace in Fairbanks Park Saturday morning.

When Paul was a young man, he was a candy butcher on the trains (selling candy and apples to the passengers). At that time he became acquainted with Col. E. South, the Big Four Railroad representative here in Terre Haute, and Mary South's father.

Later in New York City when Paul had become a noted song writer, Miss South said, he told Col. Smith and Dr. Moorhead, another good friend, "that he had just written a wonderful song about Terre Haute."

"The song On the Banks of the Wabash was ready to be printed, he told Dr. Moorhead except that he wanted to dedicate it to someone back in Terre Haute," Miss South said.

Dr. Moorhead suggested Col. South's daughter, Mary, who was a school girl at the time. "I was just 14 at the time of the dedication," she said.

The song was presented in the Elks Minstrel Show at that time. Paul sat in a box at the theater with the Souths and "spent one night at our home," Miss South said.

Miss South said she did see the famous song writer one other time and they corresponded regularly.

"All the letters and cards are in the library at the Indiana University," she said. Miss South especially recalled the way Paul would send her professional music from New York before it was published and sent out to the general public.

Miss South has given a portrait of herself, which will be one display in the house at the opening of the Paul Dresser birthplace on Saturday. Miss South lives at 60 S. 20th St.

### Quartet to Sing

The Highland Quartet, a barbershop singing group, will entertain visitors to the opening of the Paul Dresser birthplace Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Dresser home in Fairbanks Park, located at the intersection of First Street and Dresser Drive.

The quartet, which will offer such songs as Paul Dresser's "On the Banks of the Wabash," and many others, will provide musical entertainment throughout the day.

Another musical attraction at the opening day ceremonies will be the playing of Dresser songs and songs of his era on an antique phonograph. The phonograph, an antique Reginaphone, was loaned for the opening by Dr. Byron Rutledge, a local member of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission.

Included with the Reginaphone will be some metal recording discs of Dresser tunes. According to Mrs. Dorothy Clark, secretary of the Vigo County Historical Society, the Reginaphone will be set up inside the newly renovated house, and will be playing during the hours of the open house, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A cannon burst, shot by members of the Strawberry Hill Can-

noneers, will signal the official start of opening ceremonies. Mayor Ralph Tucker will preside at the ribbon cutting ceremonies.

"We hope everyone will be there to enjoy the first glimpse of Terre Haute's newest tourist attraction," said Mrs. Clark.

Many city and county officials have been invited to attend as well as some state officials.

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*Dresser, Paul*  
**Dresser Birthplace  
Dedication Today**

A cannon burst at 11 a.m. Saturday by members of the Strawberry Hill Cannoneers will signal the official start of dedication ceremonies of the Paul Dresser birthplace now located in Fairbanks Park.

Ribbon cutting duties will be taken care of by Mayor Ralph Tucker as the restored home of the Terre Haute composer is opened to the public. Activities will continue until 5 p.m.

A special guest at the dedication will be Miss Mary South the person to whom Dresser dedicated "On the Banks of the Wabash," which later was adopted as Indiana's official state song.

Miss South, who lives at 60 S. 20th St., met Dresser when he came to Terre Haute for the first local presentation of his song at the Grand Opera House. They met one other time and corresponded regularly, according to Miss South.

Dresser became acquainted with Miss South's father when the song writer was a candy butcher on the railroad. Miss South's father was the Big Four Railroad representative in Terre Haute. In later years, after Dresser had written the song, it was suggested to him that he dedicate it to Colonel South's daughter which Dresser did.

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Miss South has given a portrait of herself to the Dresser

home and it will be on display Saturday.

Master of ceremonies Saturday will be John G. Biel, president of the Vigo County Historical Society. Dignitaries expected to attend include Hubert H. Hawkins, representing the Indiana Historical Society; Dr. James Guthrie, Indiana University, and Dr. Richard Gemmeke, Indiana State University, both members of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission.

Music will be featured throughout the day, both inside and outside the house. The Highlander's Quartet, a barbershop singing group, will provide renditions of Dresser's hits in front of the house, while inside an antique Reginaphone, dating back to the 1880s, will play other of the composer's compositions.

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Mrs. Dorothy Clark, secretary of the Historical Society and curator of its museum, has been overseeing restoration of the Dresser birthplace, which was relocated from the Southwest Project Urban Renewal Area to its location at the intersection of South First Street and Dresser Drive.

Several original furnishings are included in the home. One is a sewing machine which Dresser's mother sewed upon to help support her family of 10 children.

Four of the Dresser children were born in the home, including Paul. Theodore Dreiser, Paul's famous novelist brother, who retained the family name, was among the youngest in the family and was not born there.

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Dresser, Paul  
T. H. Trib. Star 7/10/66.

# Dedicate Paul Dresser's Home on Banks of Wabash

By CHARLES CREMER

With a salvo of cannon-shot echoing along the banks of the Wabash River, a memorial to the man who made the river known to millions throughout the world was officially dedicated Saturday.

The birthplace of Paul Dresser, famous songwriter who memorialized the river in 1896 when he composed the sentimental "On the Banks of the Wabash," was opened to public view at 11 a.m.

Mayor Ralph Tucker cut a ribbon at the threshhold, making the opening official. A small but enthusiastic group of spectators looked on.

Among the dignitaries attending the event were John G. Biel, president of the Vigo

County Historical Society; Hubert H. Hawkins, who, as secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, represented Gov. Roger Branigin; Dr. Donald Carmony, chairman of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana State University.

Also attending were Dorothy Clark, secretary of the Vigo County Historical Society; Harry Brentlinger, president of the County Commissioners; William Butts, city councilman; Richard Tuttle of the Chamber of Commerce; W. L. White, president of the Park Board; and Lenhardt E. Bauer, Generalissimo of the Strawberry Hill Cannoneers.

Bauer's Cannoneers signalled the start of the ceremonies at 11 a.m. with a salvo. Biel, master of ceremonies for the occasion, led those assembled in a pledge of allegiance to the Flag. A color guard from the Indiana Air National Guard presented the colors. Biel then introduced Mrs. Clark, who told brief details of the project.

#### Tells About Project

She noted that when she first saw the Dresser birthplace home seven years ago at its original location at 318 S. 2nd St., a combination of that rainy, dark March day and observation of the deteriorated condition of the home almost made her turn away from the project. "It is a miracle," she said, "that we are here today to make this dedication."

Mrs. Clark also told of the mammoth task of moving the 90-ton home to its present location at the south edge of Fairbanks Park, on a plot of ground leased to the society by the Park Department.

Brief remarks also were made by Dr. Carmony, who called the shrine a major memorial of significant value, and Dr. Gem-

mecke, who paid tribute to the countless dozens of unnamed people who gave their time, effort, moral and financial support to the project without publicity. He noted that a special vote of gratitude was due Mrs. Clark's husband, Robert I. Clark, whose patience and understanding during the many long hours his wife worked to make the memorial become a reality was a special kind of contribution to the success of the project.

Richard Tuttle, speaking for the Chamber of Commerce, made special note of the tourist significance of the home.

#### Pledges City Support

Mayor Tucker praised all those who worked on the project, gave special words of appreciation to those who attended the dedication ceremonies, and pledged the continued support of his administration to the cultural advancement of the community.

A barbershop quartet group, The Terry Towners, sang a selection of songs composed by Dresser. That group was composed of Bill Jaeger, Bud McCommon, Ron Farlin and Jack Minger.

Biel said future plans for the home site include additional landscaping and the placement of tourist signs at key locations in the city directing tourists to the spot. At some future date reconstruction of an outhouse (modernized, but in the style of the period) and a shed kitchen which had been attached to the rear of the home are contemplated.

After the home was officially opened to the public, those assembled were invited to view the interior of the brick, two-story house. A count late Saturday showed about 400 persons had visited the home. Also late Saturday Mrs. Clark received a telegram from a niece of Paul Dresser, Dr. Vera Dreiser of Studio City, Calif. She wired her congratulations and stated her regrets that she was not able to attend the ceremonies. She is the head psychologist and psychiatrist at the California State Women's Prison.

The weatherman provided an appropriate day for the dedication. Saturday was one of those delightful summer days of warm sunshine and cool breeze, very similar to the weather on the day Dresser's most famous song was born. Historians say Dresser's equally famous brother, Novelist Theodore Dreiser, suggested to Paul, "Why don't you write something about a state or river?"

"Take Indiana. And what's the matter with the Wabash River? It's as good as any other river, and you were raised on it."

The song was written, according to Dreiser, "on one of those delightful summer days," at West Baden. In 1913 the Indiana State Legislature adopted it as the official state song. Thousands of copies of the song sold annually, both in sheet music and on records.

Dresser dedicated the song to Miss Mary South of Terre Haute and it had been hoped that Miss South might be able to attend Saturday's dedication ceremonies, but illness prevented her from attending.

Besides that song, perhaps the other Dresser composition most likely to be heard today is "My Gal Sal," his final song. It, too, enjoys continued popularity to this day.

The thread of romanticism runs through most of the more than 100 songs Paul composed during his career, a career that began in an unlikely manner when he ran away from St. Meinrad's Academy in Spencer County to join a medicine show. Changing his name to Dresser, he became a member of a stock company in Louisville, billed as "Paul Dresser, the sensational comique."

In time Paul became a gentleman of the theater and in the period of the Gay Nineties he was one of the brightest lights on Broadway and one of the most popular and successful song writers of the Tin Pan Alley era.

It is said of him that his musical talents overshadowed another aspect of the man, a charitable attitude toward others. He is thought to have loaned \$25,000 to friends who failed to repay him. He also gave away, outright, much of his income.

His health and creative ability declined in the early 1900's and he died Jan. 30, 1906, at the age of 46, and was buried in Chicago.

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Dresser, Paul  
T-4 star 10/1/66

## DRESSER HOME TO BE HISTORICAL MARKER SUBJECT

Selection of Terre Haute as a location for one of 20 new highway historical markers has been announced by Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, secretary of the Vigo County Historical Society.

The marker, pointing out the birthplace of Paul Dresser, will be located in the median at the intersection of South Third and Farrington streets. James Guthrie, director of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission, telephoned the news to Mrs. Clark.

The blue and white marker will identify Dresser as composer of "On the Banks of the Wabash" and "My Gal Sal." It will also note that Theodore Dreiser, famous American novelist, was Dresser's brother.

The Dresser Home, located at First and Farrington streets, will be open the remainder of October from 2-4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays. Tours may also be arranged according to Mrs. Clark.

Mrs. Clark also said the Indiana Historymobile will be making its third and fourth visits to Terre Haute soon. Sunday, Oct. 9, the mobile unit will be at K-mart Plaza, and Saturday, Nov. 26, it will be at Plaza North Shopping Center.

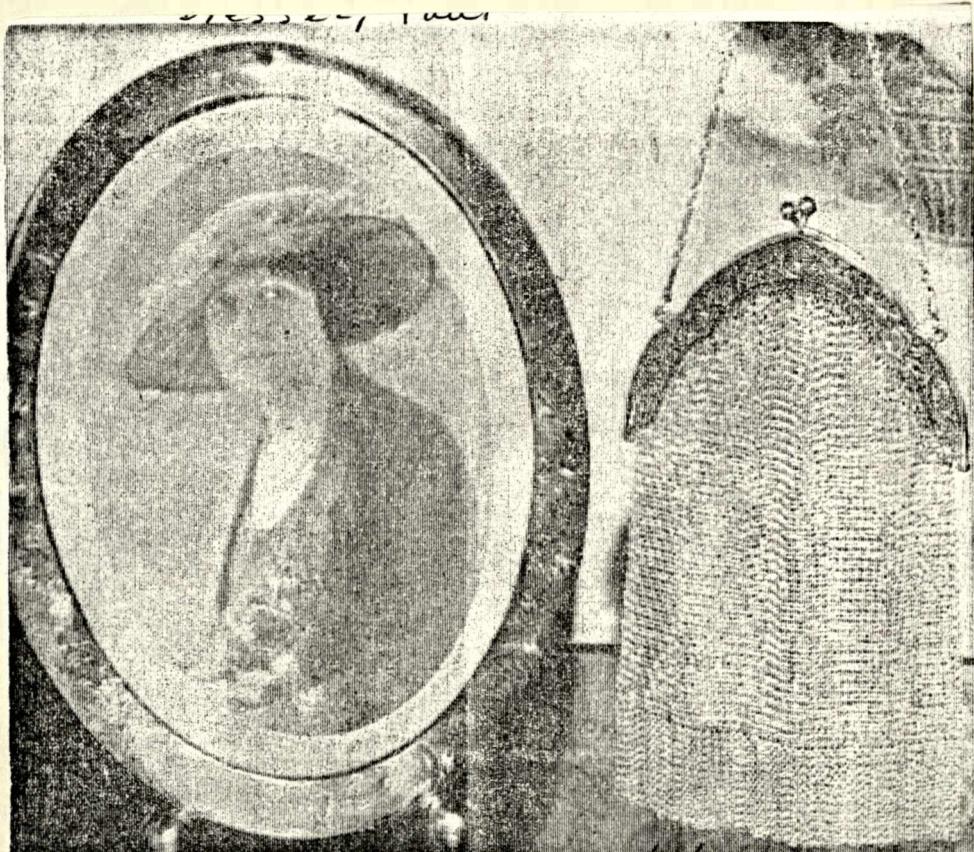
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T.H. Trib-Star 10/16/66  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM GIFTS—Recent gifts to the Historical Museum were a portrait of Miss Mary South, the local girl to whom Paul Dresser dedicated one of his songs and a sterling silver bag from Tiffany's also owned by Miss South. The portrait has a beautiful sterling silver frame which Miss South gave for the portrait. Photo by Strausburg.

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Dresser, Paul



DEDICATE DRESSER MARKER—A new historical marker, designating location of the Paul Dresser birthplace, was dedicated Monday morning at the corner of Third and Farrington Sts. Taking part in the ceremony were from left) William Ennis, city councilman; R. H. Gemmeke, secretary of the Sesquicentennial Commission; Mrs. Dorothy Clark, curator of the Historical Society; Mayor Ralph Tucker, and John G. Biel, president of the Vigo Historical Society.

Chuck Strausburg Photo.

T. H. Trib. 12/19/66

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Dresser, Paul  
**State Marker**  
**Placed at**  
*T.H. Tr. b. 9/13/68*  
**Dresser Home**

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A historical marker, designating the Paul Dresser home as a state shrine and state memorial, has been erected by the Indiana State Highway Department at the late composer's residence in Fairbanks Park here.

Mrs. Dorothy J. Clark, secretary of the Vigo County Historical Society, said the marker was furnished by the Indiana Historical Society following legislative action adding the home to the state shrine and memorial system.

The house, formerly located at 318 Harding Ave., was moved to its present location on the northwest corner of 1st and Farrington streets in 1963. Dresser was born in the house in 1859. He died in 1906.

Mrs. Clark praised the efforts of State Sen. Herman J. Fanning Jr. (D-Terre Haute) and State Rep. Jack I. Neaderhiser (D-Terre Haute) for sponsoring legislation which made the Dresser home a state shrine and memorial.

She said the house attracts large numbers of tourists who journey here to see the birthplace of the composer of the state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash," "My Gal Sal," and numerous other tunes.

The Dresser house is open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays. After Sept. 29, the house will remain closed for the winter, but will reopen April 2.

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Tri-STATE TRADER 8-30-69 P25

## Home of Terre Haute, Ind., Composer Open To Public



**PAUL DRESSER'S HOME** located on Dresser Drive, Terre Haute, Ind. Dresser was the Composer of "On The Banks of the Wabash," Indiana's state song.

by Jo Ann Rogers

3009 Fenwood Ave., Terre Haute, Ind.

Located on Dresser Drive in Terre Haute, Ind., is the restored home of Paul Dresser, of whom everyone has heard and sung the songs that he has written. I'm sure you recognize: "My Gal Sal," "Just tell Them That You Saw Me," "Don't Tell Her That You Love Her," "In The Sweet Summertime," and "The Old Flame Flicker And I Wonder Why."

Paul Dresser was born on April 22, 1859, in Terre Haute, the son of John Paul Dreiser and Sarah Mary Schneppes. His brother Theodore Dreiser, is known for being the author of "An American Tragedy". He retained the original spelling of their name.

Paul was one of the talented song writers on Broadway during the "Gay Nineties". His musical talents produced the sentimental songs that the public loved. This was the era for sheet music and barber shop quartets. "My Gal Sal" is still popular and was the last song that he composed. "On The Banks Of The Wabash" was

chosen as our state song in 1913. So, it is appropriate that his home was moved from 318 South Second Street to Fairbanks Park on the river's edge on June 5, 1963. The house is furnished with many of his articles and those that could not be found were replaced by items suitable to the period. This house is typical of the way the Hoosiers lived before the Civil War. This move was made possible by the donations of people all over the United States and trade unions donated a great deal of the labor for the project.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mary South, who resided in Terre Haute, and knew Mr. Dresser. She has often told me the story of how she dated Mr. Dresser and that he wrote our state song for her. Miss South passed away this Spring, but her memory of this event remained bright and clear.

Paul Dresser died on Jan. 30, 1906 and is buried in St. Boniface Cemetery in Chicago, Ill., near his parents.

The Dresser House is open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. April through October. Groups may be taken by appointment.

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